

LYNNE TRUSS TACKLES THE WEMBLEY TURF
PAGE 50

THE RISE AND RISE OF BABY GAP
PAGE 21

HOW I COPE WITH LINDA'S ILLNESS
Paul McCartney
PAGES 5, 37

MY DOG'S DINNER
Giles Whittell on restaurants for dogs, PAGE 21

TOMORROW Live
Get the best seats for Jools Holland and Cirque Du Soleil
THE DIRECTORY

Battle turns to bitterness and abuse

Tories attack 'bare-faced lies by Blair'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was accused of telling "bare-faced lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics.

Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks against Mr Blair. Mr Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars" and at Conservative headquarters Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair directly of lying over pensions and alleging the Tories would put VAT on food.

Mr Dorrell said of Mr Blair: "The tougher the questioning, the more he panics. The more he panics the more he lies — telling bare-faced despicable lies."

Major rejects Saatchi advertising blitz

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR has overruled plans by Lord Saatchi for a big advertising campaign in the last week before the election because the Conservative Party's finances have already been stretched to the limit.

In a sign of deepening tension at Central Office, it was disclosed last night that the Prime Minister had rejected a personal plan from the advertising mastermind, Lord Saatchi, to lobby Mr Major on his flight back from Aberdeen on Wednesday evening.

But the Prime Minister, who has taken a close interest in the advertising campaign,

INSIDE
Reports, analysis... 9, 13-16
Peter Barnard... 11
Matthew Parris... 22
Tessa Blackstone... 22
Leading article... 23
Letters... 23
Chambers of Commerce... 28

campaign plans for today to keep the spotlight on pensions.

The Tory attacks were designed partly to damage Mr Blair's integrity on the night when Labour's election broadcast showed him chatting at home with his children and talking about his beliefs. Mr Dorrell said: "Today he peddled lies about our proposals for the state pension with the sole intent of whipping up fears among pensioners."

There was more. "Once again this morning we saw how he panicked when faced with serious questions. A rabbit caught in the headlights looks positively relaxed when compared with Mr Blair answering a question on economics."

Scarcely less severe was Dr Mawhinney. He said that in statement after statement Mr Blair had been telling lies

about state pensions, the NHS and Tory plans to put VAT on food in a "cynical pre-programmed attempt" to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses on Europe and the economy.

It was hard, he said, "not to hold in a degree of contempt someone who deliberately sets out to smear and to scare the elderly people of this country". If the lie claims had been made in the Commons the Speaker would have forced ministers to withdraw them. Such attacks are deemed "unparliamentary language".

It was an unexpected turn of events on a day when the Tories had begun their final week of campaigning focusing on the economy and the alleged £12 billion black hole in the plans by Labour, which in turn had set out to spell out to voters the choice facing them next week.

John Prescott, the Deputy Leader, said: "They are resorting to abuse because they know they are losing the argument. Tony Blair is talking about the future of the country while the Tories have nothing left to say and nothing left to offer other than personalised attacks."

Labour backs its claim about the threat to pension on the Tory manifesto which, it says, paves the way for the full privatisation of the state pension. When outlining the new Basic Pension Plus scheme in March ministers insisted that the basic pension would be protected. But Labour says that if pension funds were to go bankrupt there was no guarantee of where the money would come from.

The Tories have admitted that their scheme will cost £160 million in the first year, accumulating each year to a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

It was Mr Blair's launch of Labour's final week of campaigning that so infuriated the Tories. He was flanked on one side by a list of Labour pledges. On the other side, there was a list of "threats" posed by the Conservatives.



Tony Blair at home in Islington yesterday. He pledged "a fresh start in politics"

Labour 'will stay radical'

BY PETER RIDDLELL

TONY BLAIR promises this morning in an interview with *The Times* that he will be as radical as Prime Minister as he has been in changing the Labour Party.

Talking in the drawing room of his Islington home, a relaxed Mr Blair says he has discovered "a real sense of confidence" as the campaign has progressed. But he is cautious about specifics and putting at risk the election victory which he and his advisers increasingly expect.

However, Mr Blair seeks to give the impression that, despite the caution of the party's manifesto and election campaign, a Labour government would over time make a big difference in education, the health service and welfare.

"There is something inherently improbable about my having been a radical leader of the Labour Party and then

being a cautious Prime Minister. I wouldn't be. I'd be a radical Prime Minister, but it would be a different kind of radicalism." But he argues that radicalism should not be defined by how much government spends or raises taxes, but rather by raising standards in schools and the like.

He says Labour has drawn up detailed preparations for forming a government. He hinted at the possibility of some novel appointments in government and in Whitehall: "I believe in making the broadest use of the talents we have available." He promises to offer "a fresh start in politics which will not be tried."

Mr Blair goes on of his way to praise John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, who has had "a fantastic campaign" and has done "wonderfully". He is in "no doubt" that Mr Prescott would be "a key

player in the Labour Government".

Throughout the interview, he emphasises how a Labour administration would make a difference through step-by-step, rather than dramatic, changes — in the Queen's Speech, in the midsummer "welfare to work" Budget and at the Amsterdam Euro summit. "I'm not myself a great believer in a dazzling first 100 days which then disappears up in smoke. People don't want a revolution, they want a fresh start."

He said people wanted "tangible proof that the party that calls itself new Labour is genuinely new Labour". This means not trying to reverse everything that has happened over the past 18 years but in putting right the things that were wrong.

Interview, page 9

Mother aged 63 sets record after treatment for fertility

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A 63-year-old Californian who lied about her age to get fertility treatment has become the world's oldest woman on record to have a baby.

The unidentified mother, whose 6 lb 5 oz daughter was delivered safely, was 15 months older when she gave birth than Rosanna Della Corte, an Italian who was 62 when she became a mother in 1994.

The California birth occurred on November 7, 1996, but has only just been disclosed in a medical journal, *Fertility and Sterility*. The story immediately raised ethical questions about the maximum age — now unspecified — for patients of fertility therapy.

Few details about the mother, 63 years and nine months old, were released, other than that she is a Philippine-American, had a comparatively easy pregnancy and breast-fed her infant. She suffered high blood pressure and gestational diabetes, but nothing that bed rest and a good diet could not ease.

She was treated by doctors from the University of Southern California's Orwellian-sounding Programme for Assisted Reproduction, from whom she kept her true age. When she first went to them she claimed instead to be 50 — like many Filipino women she looked young for her age — and for three years she managed to maintain the charade. "Had she disclosed her actual age she would not have qualified for treatment here, since the programme uses an arbitrary upper age limit of 55," the university said.

Doctors learnt her real age only during the first trimester of the pregnancy. The pregnancy was achieved by taking a donated egg and using sperm from the woman's 60-



year-old husband. The couple, who have been married for 16 years, were previously childless.

When 62-year-old Signora Della Corte had her baby in 1994 the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, condemned the birth. It said that "the means by which her desire was realised is in open contrast to God's plan".

Yesterday, opinion in the American medical world on the California birth was divided as to whether it was right to allow such an elderly woman to produce. Dr Ronald Munson, a medical ethics lecturer at the University of Missouri, said that the setting of maximum ages by fertility clinics was little more than "age discrimination".

Dr Stanford Korenman, of the University of California Los Angeles, asked: "Would you rather have a 63-year-old mother who is wealthy, or would you rather have a 14-year-old impoverished girl who is a mother?"

It was pointed out that society sees little wrong with old men siring offspring — Tony Randall, the actor, recently became a father at 77 — and that reactions against the California birth may simply

Continued on page 2, col 5
Dr Stuttaford, page 2

Top charities pay heads £100,000

Directors of 14 charities are paid more than £100,000 a year and the average salary of chief executives in the top 100 voluntary organisations is £75,000, according to a survey of the nation's 3,000 main good causes. The charities have an annual turnover of £13 million. Page 6

By the Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium Fr 100; Canada \$1.50; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar Gbp 90; Greece Dr 350; Holland Gld 2.50; Italy L 4.500; Luxembourg Lfr 450; Malaysia M 350; Mexico Mx 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal Esc 200; Spain Ptas 325; Sweden Skr 16.50; Switzerland Sfr 3.00; Tunisia Dtn 2.00; USA \$3.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Huge Roman villa found

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WHAT may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site four miles north of Swindon.

Developers of a housing estate at Groundwell Ridge, near Blunsdon St. Andrew, discovered an impressive wall about 3ft high when driving a road through the site. They immediately stopped work and, as required by Department of the Environment guidelines, provided access for archaeologists. Investigations have been organised by Bryn Walters of the Association for Roman Archaeology.

No actual archaeological digging has yet been undertaken, but a team from the archaeometry division of English Heritage has used geophysical surveying methods to estimate the size of the building. The team's preliminary results suggest that it lay within an enclosure up to 150 yards long and that it was not the only building on the site.

Indications are that it is a

very large villa or a temple dating from the last century of Roman occupation. From its size, it could prove one of the most important ever found.

Mr Walters said yesterday that he was not yet ready to comment. "It's too early to say anything," he said.

Swindon is proving a productive area for Roman remains. Last month a team of archaeologists reported the discovery of a Mediterranean-style villa south of the town. The site, in the valley of the Og, has produced a large double-handled jar, probably

for holding beer, and the finely carved bone handle of a folding razor. Mr Walters was also involved with that find, which he described as being like "an Italian atrium house of the type found at Pompeii".

Another Roman find has been made in Kent, where pieces of mosaic were uncovered when a field near Faversham was ploughed. Dr Paul Wilkinson, a part-time lecturer at the University of Kent, made the find while carrying out a survey for the local Swale Borough Council. He says that the pieces of mosaic are of very high quality, "as good, if not better, than any other found in England".

Yellow line snares its inventor 50 years on

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THERE was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists yesterday when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention — the yellow line.

Mr Musgrave, who came up with the idea 50 years ago this month, was fined £20 for parking on a yellow line. He saw the funny side as he explained how he had fallen foul of his detested invention. "The law is the law and I broke it," he said at his home in Eastbourne. "I needed to carry out an errand for my wife, who is disabled, and put the car on a single yellow line, which I thought meant I could stop for unloading. I was in the shop just five minutes and when I got back, the warden was walking off up the street. I tried to appeal but it was too late."

Mr Musgrave, 81, a former missionary, first suggested yellow lines while he was working in Greenwich in 1947. The local council ran a compe-

tion to find ways of improving road safety and he entered a selection of ideas, from putting railings outside school gates to preventing parking 20 yards either side of a zebra crossing — measures which are still in use today.

Painting lines along the pavement or road to stop cars from parking came to him when he was almost knocked down crossing the road after emerging from between parked cars. The council gave him a prize of £2 for the idea.

There were years of debate before yellow lines were accepted by the Government and the motoring establishment. They were first tried in London and in 1950 the streets of Slough turned to gold as it became the centre for experiment. Even in 1968, the Government was still implementing legislation trying to decide where, yellow lines should be used and what, precisely, they should mean.

Private health cover

4 reasons why people feel better with Primecare.

1. PROMPT private treatment
2. GENEROUS levels of cover
3. Surprisingly LOW premiums
4. No-claims DISCOUNT

Why compromise on your private medical insurance to keep premiums low? With Primecare, you can enjoy truly comprehensive cover at a budget price. Even better, Prime Health gives you a generous no-claims discount, starting at 25% and rising to 50%. Discover why you're better off choosing Primecare.

Call now for a personal quotation
0800 779955
Quoting reference MO47796

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

from only £21.51 a month

TV & RADIO... 50, 51
WEATHER... 26
CROSSWORDS... 26, 52

LETTERS... 23
OBITUARIES... 25
MATTHEW PARRIS... 22

ARTS... 35-38
CHESS & BRIDGE... 43
COURT & SOCIAL... 24

SPORT... 43-46, 48-50, 52
EDUCATION... 41
LAW REPORT... 39

Human rights appeal by bereaved husbands who want same benefits as women

Widowers' claim for cash equality 'may cost £490m'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to bereaved women. The Treasury says that giving equal rights to bereaved men could cost £490 million a year.

The Child Poverty Action Group, which is helping to support one of the cases to the European Court of Human Rights, says that virtually every other nation in western Europe treats widowers and widows equally. In Britain, men are still deemed to be the breadwinners.

The two men both gave up full-time work because their wives had cancer. Kevin Willis, 40, from Bristol, has launched proceedings after discovering that he is not eligible for some state benefits to help raise his two children. Christopher Crossland, 38, from Wiltshire, who has three children, has lodged a claim over the refusal of the Inland Revenue to award him bereavement allowance.

An estimated 20,000 to 40,000 widowed fathers who could benefit from the various allowances if the claims succeed. The Government says

that "equalising" all widows' benefits could also include the widow's pension.

Mr Willis's wife Marlene had been the family's main breadwinner as a local government official before her illness. He husband, who had been repeatedly made redundant, finally had to give up his job as a field service engineer to nurse her, and then to look after their children, aged 6 and 8. Last November, he put in claims for money equal to a lump sum "widow's payment" worth £1,000, and the widowed mother's allowance. He was turned down, but receives child benefit.

His case is backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and the Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits. The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to family life.

"The children suffered a grievous loss when they lost their mother," said Mr Willis. "It seems very unfair that they should suffer financially as well just because they have lost their mother and not their father."

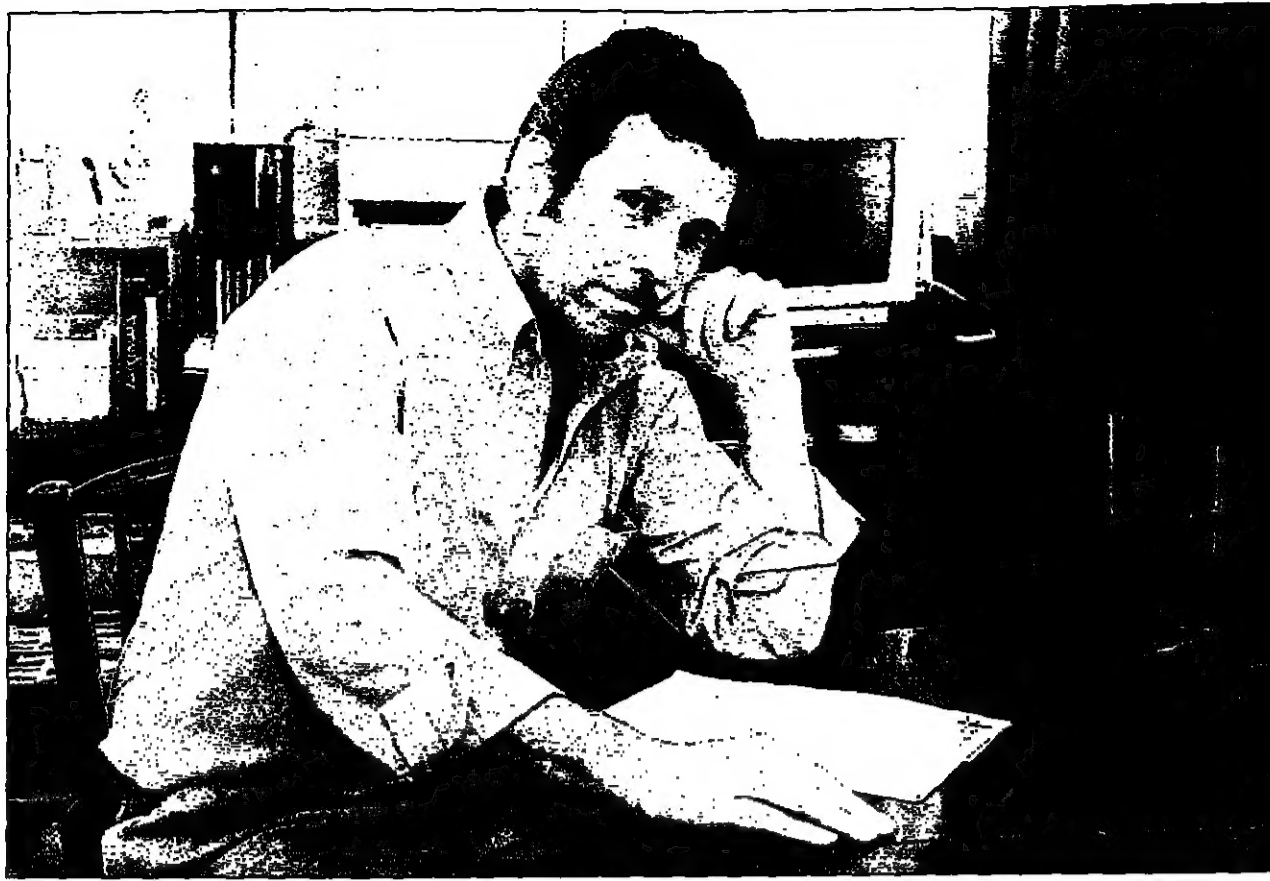
The widowed mother's allowance, a benefit for wid-

owed mothers who have not remarried, is currently worth £62.45p a week, with an extra £9.90 a week for the eldest child and £11.20 a week each for other children. This brings the total sum Mr Willis says he is denied to £83.55p a week, in addition to the £1,000 lump sum. He is using up his savings to keep the family solvent, and cannot have income support because he has savings.

Mr Crossland's claim has the backing of Liberty. Mr Crossland, 38, gave up his full-time job as director of one of the Unipart companies in 1995 to look after his children when his wife, Alexandra, died of cancer. The bereavement allowance for the tax year 1996/97 was £1,790. He was told the allowance was available only to widows "because generally speaking, the financial problems are greater for a woman than a man. This is because the husband is usually the main breadwinner so the loss of his income has greater effect."

Mr Crossland works part-time when his children — Emma, 13, Peter, 10, and Alice, 6 — are at school. He said: "I find this rule deeply offensive to woman, because it says their economic contribution is worthless. It's a great injustice to the memory of my wife. The present policy places a higher value on the life of a man, and in reality says that in the UK a woman's life is worthless."

Realistically it could take five years for the claims to be decided. Labour has pledged to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, which would enable British courts



Kevin Willis: "It seems unfair that children should suffer because they lose their mother not their father"

here to look at such claims. The Child Poverty Action Group says virtually every European country provides such benefits equally to widowers and widows. Only Britain, Switzerland and the Czech republic do not.

CPAG's legal officer David Thomas said: "Based on recent cases from the Human Rights court, we believe we have a very strong case. However, rather than force Kevin to take his case all the

way to Strasbourg, we would like to see whoever is in power after the election change the rules to reflect the reality of modern life."

The CPAG says that women now make up 45 per cent of the UK workforce, and that married women bring in the wages in nearly a quarter of households. Even if Treasury estimates of the cost of equalisation are accurate, the action group argues that the figures cannot justify the discrimination. It points out that other state benefits exist for widowers in financial need, such as income support and family credit, which cannot justify the discrimination between the sexes. The Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits estimates that if the law was changed, about 20,000 men would be entitled to claim, with many more eligible for the lump sum payment and the separate widow's pension.

Police on guard against hooligans

Maker of new contraceptive admits to 450 pregnancies

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE makers of a new contraceptive device hailed as the biggest breakthrough in family planning since the 1960s admitted last night that at least 450 women have become pregnant while using it.

The Persona, which has the backing of the Catholic Church, has been bought by more than 100,000 women since going on sale at Boots chemists last October.

The device works by measuring hormone levels in

urine to establish when a woman is at her most fertile. It includes a monitor, which displays a green light when it is safe to have sex and a red one when the user is fertile.

Unipath, the manufacturers, told BBC's *Watchdog* Healthcheck programme, that it knew of at least 450 pregnancies and that the company has recently reduced its claimed success rate for the product from 95 to 94 per cent.

Persona was marketed as an alternative to the condom, — but family planning statis-

tics give condoms a 98 per cent success rate. Dr Judy Murty of the Marie Stopes Centre in Leeds said: "Persona is best for people in a stable relationship who want to plan families. If you didn't want to get pregnant and if you would choose to have an abortion if you had an unwanted pregnancy, I don't think Persona is the thing to use."

Leendert Staal, chairman of Unipath, last night defended the device. "No method of contraception is 100 per cent reliable," he said.

Woolf urges health dispute reforms

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENOUGH money to run a large health service trust is being spent annually on legal costs to deal with negligence claims from patients, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, said last night.

Calling for fresh ways to settle claims for compensation, he said the present system for resolving disputes was not designed to meet the needs of health carers and their patients but the interests of the legal profession.

Lord Woolf, who last year completed a review of ways to streamline litigation, said that when his survey ended there were 20,000 claims outstanding against the NHS, some of them for more than £1 million. Over 90 per cent of the

litigants were on legal aid, so in the vast majority of cases the public purse was paying for both sides.

The situation of those who did not qualify for legal aid was also difficult. Equally, health carers were trapped in a nightmare situation, with hurtful allegations being made against them even though their only aim had been to help the patient. Litigation made it impossible for them to talk to the patient about what happened. "The concern is that if there is an apology or if even an explanation is given, this could be used in evidence against them or prejudice their position with the medical defence bodies."

Lord Woolf, giving the spring lecture to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, said that he was keen to see ways of

keeping cases out of court. There needed to be more use of the health service ombudsman and mechanisms to find out from the start what the patient wanted.

"During the course of my inquiry I was told by litigants that all they were seeking was an explanation or apology, which was never forthcoming. All too often... they are forced into litigation because of the lack of communication by those representing the medical profession."

Lord Woolf said the whole process should be streamlined, with the patient notifying the defendant of the grounds of his claim at least three months before a legal action starts. That would make it possible for the health authority to investigate the claim and see whether it was worth contesting. Openness on all sides was essential.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New rule means 25 weddings invalid

At least 25 couples who married in the Irish Republic will have to go through the ceremonies again because they failed to abide by a new three-month notification rule (Andrew Magee writes).

They were supposed to register their intention to marry at least three months before the ceremony. However, bureaucracy and the new rule got the better of them and they ignored the legislation or completed forms with the wrong registrars.

The Government has declared their marriages invalid. The only way they can ensure that they are legally wed is by going through the ceremony again.

The couples have fallen foul of the 1995 Family Law Act which compels couples to notify the local registrar in writing of their intention to marry. Previously, a couple had to notify only the parish priest.

Couples are exempt from the three-month ruling only if a judge grants them a special dispensation. Eithne Fitzgerald, a junior minister, said considerable steps had been taken to inform the public of the changes. "The couples walked into the situation with their eyes open," she said.

Police on guard against hooligans

A nationwide police operation is under way to stop football hooligans rampaging across Europe when England competes in World Cup and friendly matches this summer. Officers fear hooligans will strike in Germany, Poland and France when England plays four matches in 11 days. A source said hooligans could be planning a series of battles when England play Poland in Katowice on May 31. From June 3 England take part in a four-nation competition in France against France, Italy and Brazil.

Violent prisoner sues for assault

A high-risk prisoner who admits he is "very violent" and is serving four life sentences is suing the Home Office for damages after complaining of rough treatment by warders. Anthony Steele, 31, who has tried to murder two inmates and assaulted prison officers, said that he had been left "hurting all over. I accept that I have been very, very violent, but that doesn't give them the right to do what they did to me," he told the Mayors and City of London County Court. The case continues.

School raffles car for teacher

A school is to raffle a car so it can replace a teacher lost because of budget cuts. Governors at Kirkburton Church of England first school, near Huddersfield in west Yorkshire, hope to raise £20,000 and restore the staff to four for the 105 pupils. The cut imposed last year by Kirkburton council meant that Kirkburton's four classes of 25 pupils were reduced to three of 35. Joyce Worsfold, the headmistress, said: "There is no point in blaming the Government, because that does not help the children."

IRA fugitive held after 14 years

A convicted IRA bomber who escaped from the Maze prison 14 years ago was arrested yesterday at his home in the Irish Republic, where he had been living in full view of the law. Dermot Joseph McNally, one of Britain's most wanted terrorists, was arrested in Sligo by the Irish police following a request from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who wish to extradite him. McNally had been serving three life sentences for bombing in Northern when he escaped with 37 other prisoners during a mass breakout.

Mother's age is more of a problem as child grows up

THIRTY years ago, doctors thought that an ageing woman's fertility was governed by the state of her uterus, as well as her ovaries.

It was assumed that beyond a certain age her uterus was finished. It was present but old and shrivelled; it would be as incapable of action in the labour ward as an aged Chelsea Pensioner would be at the front.

This earlier generation of gynaecologists have been proved wrong. The uterus springs to life when treated with the appropriate hormones — oestrogens only in the first half of the month with progestogens in the second — analogues of those which coursed through her body in



MEDICAL BRIEFING

her youth. The correct balance of hormones given at the right time and in the right strength, hormones such as those also used in HRT, can so revitalise the uterus and its blood supply that it is capable of maintaining a 40-week pregnancy even if the woman is in her seventies.

Conversely, the quality of a woman's eggs, the ova, deteriorate even though she may still be ovulating regularly. Fertility in a woman in her

mid to late thirties begins to fail not because of her uterus, but because the ova are past their best. There is as yet no way of improving the quality of ova.

When Sam Abdalla, a consultant at the fertility clinic at the Lister Hospital, London, was told that a 63-year-old American woman had had a baby, he replied: "Oh my God. This is no advance, no breakthrough, for there is no technical difference between preparing a woman's uterus for an embryo whether she is 40, 50, 60, 70 or even presumably 80."

"As obstetricians we do not only have a duty, but also a legal responsibility, to look after the child's interests. Doctors have to consider what it would be like for a child still in its early teens to have to look after a mother who might well already be physically or mentally disabled. There is also of course a distinct possibility that they might have been orphaned by this age."

At the Lister hospital, 50 is the cut-off age for fertility treatment, after which any attempt to secure a pregnancy would be considered only in the most exceptional of circumstances.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Mother aged 63

Continued from page 1

sexist. Scientific advances have made it safer for old women to become mothers and people now tend to live longer, healthier lives. To have a child around the house might help keep pensioners young at heart.

Opponents argued that fertility clinicians had a duty to consider the future of the child. Dr Abraham Munabi, an infertility specialist from Pennsylvania, said: "At our clinic we have a maximum entry age of 52, which is the average age for the onset of menopause. Women must leave the programme when they reach 55. Let's be realistic: we do not want children to

grow up orphans." Dr Munabi said that he turns away two couples a month from his clinic for age reasons. Would-be patients often lie about their age, and the clinic makes discreet checks. In the California case, the mother reportedly provided documents which assured doctors that she was in her 30s.

If the California couple are prosperous, they stand a chance of becoming even richer. Lucrative offers were last night being touted by media organisations keen to have their exclusive story. But for the moment, it seemed, the couple are happy to settle for the bounty of parenthood and the joys of the soiled nappy.

Stamp of approval for royal display

By ROBIN YOUNG

AVID stamp collectors might be forgiven for being resentful that the Queen has the finest stamp collection in the world, without apparently ever having picked a stamp mount once in her adult life.

If they do feel aggrieved, they were not showing it yesterday at the Stamp '97 Exhibition at Wembley where some of the Queen's prize specimens were on display for the first time.

"The royal interest in stamp collecting has done wonders for the whole business," said Raglan Thwaites, who had

travelled from Yorkshire for the show. "When did you ever hear of a royal train spotter?"

The Queen's loan of ten panels for the exhibition excited great interest. Her display included two extremely rare Penny Blacks, some of the earliest experiments in postmarking, and the artists' proofs and essays for the Coronation and Silver Jubilee stamp sets.

Peter Jennings of the Royal Philatelic Society said: "The Queen's collection is the finest anywhere. This is a rare opportunity to see something that normally collectors and the public would

never have access to." The royal collection began with Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria. When financially embarrassed, he sold it to his elder brother the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. Edward added examples from all the colonies, dependent territories and later dominions which fell under his aegis. The collecting was continued by George V and filled 325 red albums when it was passed on to the Queen's father, George VI, also a keen philatelist.

Leading article, page 23

New NatWest PEPs

Alliance & Leicester

windfall?

Turn it into a bumper crop

tax-free.

- No initial charge
- No exit charge
- Low annual charge
- Tax-free

Do you know what you're going to do with your Alliance & Leicester windfall shares? With a NatWest PEP there's the opportunity for your windfall to really grow — tax-free.

Our UK Tracker PEP is linked to the performance of the FT-SE 100 Index — an index which has grown by 97% in the past five years. And our Extra Income PEP currently gives a return of 6.6% p.a. Compare that with a return of just 2.6% p.a. from a typical high interest building society account.

All you need to start a new NatWest PEP is £1,000, or with our UK Tracker PEP you can save regularly from just £50 a month. So call now for an application form or return the coupon today.

*The NatWest UK Tracker PEP has a buy/sell price of 100p per share. The NatWest Extra Income PEP has a buy/sell price of 100p per share. (All prices are in pence, not pounds.)

STOP PRESS!! If you have £4,500 or more to invest in addition to your windfall shares, you could invest in a NatWest PEP without affecting your PEP allowance.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms Initial Surname

Address

Postcode Day Tel. No. (inc. 300 area)

I am interested in: UK Tracker PEP Extra Income PEP

I will be receiving windfall shares until I have over £4,500 to invest I have a NatWest account

Post to: NatWest, FREEPOST, 4 Eastern Way, LONDON EC3B 3LL

NatWest

More than just a bank

£175,000 for fashion designer after gas fire leak destroyed career



McCrae: loss of memory

BY FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FASHION designer who was forced to give up his career after suffering carbon monoxide poisoning from his council flat gas fire over several years has received £175,000 damages.

Allan McCrae, 46, a council tenant with the London Borough of Camden, discovered in 1993 that his gas fire was defective after experiencing loss of memory and lack of concentration. He lodged a claim for compensation in which his lawyers said the fire had never been

serviced or inspected and that the north London council, as landlord, had failed in its contractual and statutory duty to repair and take reasonable care to see the tenant was safe from personal injury caused by defects on the premises.

Mr McCrae's medical experts concluded that he had been exposed to toxic fumes causing moderate brain damage that led to loss of concentration and memory and loss of organisational ability, which reduced his capacity to work. Earlier this month the council offered to settle his claim for £175,000 and the trial was adjourned until yesterday to allow time for its approval by the relevant council committee.

Mr McCrae's solicitor, Gisele Bakkenist from Leigh Day, said: "I am delighted that he has at least obtained justice. There is little doubt in my mind and that of our experts that Mr McCrae would have been awarded substantial damages by the trial judge."

She said that all landlords, whether private or public authorities, now had to ensure the safety of gas installations by conducting annual safety checks and maintenance. "I hope this case will be a

warning that if the safety of tenants from this poisonous gas is not ensured, landlords will be held accountable."

Mr McCrae had a successful career in fashion design and had worked for well-known boutiques and designers, including the House of Norman Hartnell, and had set up his own studio. As his health deteriorated he turned to teaching design but that also became too difficult for him.

Stephanie Trotter, president of CO Gas Safety, a registered charity, said: "Carbon monoxide is a hidden poison. We counted from press

cuttings 65 deaths and 405 near misses from September 1995 to August 1996. We are delighted with this result and hope others will take courage to fight their cases because this will encourage the authorities to improve standards."

The Royal College of Nursing has won a record £380,000 in damages for a 35-year-old nurse who will never be able to work again after injuring her back.

The nurse, who does not want her identity disclosed, fractured her spine in 1990 in a work accident caused by a failure to maintain safe premises. She is in constant pain,

unable to work for more than 10 minutes at a time or drive for half an hour. Her National Health Service employer has agreed to pay £380,000 in an out-of-court settlement, the highest sum the college has won for a back-injured nurse.

Patrick Blundy, legal adviser to the college, said: "No amount of money can compensate this nurse for the fact that she is now unable to practise her chosen profession. There is a clear message here for employers: take care of your staff and ensure that your premises are safe to work in or you will pay the price."

'I called them in for the match,' says mother. 'They moved and the ground disappeared'

Soccer saves children as garden falls into crater

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home.

Ten-year-old Charlotte Britton and her brother Charles, eight, had just cleared away their buckets and spades from a sandpit when the ground slipped into a water-filled hole.

As their mother Jane, 31, called them into the semi-detached house in Ripon, North Yorkshire, to watch Manchester United play Borussia Dortmund in the

European Cup on Wednesday night, the garden fell away from under them. "I went out to call them in and the ground started to move under me," she said. "I just shouted to the children. They moved and the ground just disappeared."

"There was a roar and a hole 70ft across and 100ft deep appeared just yards in front of us. If I had not been there to get my children they would have been dead now. Thankfully Charlie is a Manchester United fan and he had told me to call him when the match started."

A few hours later the family's double garage fell into the hole. "I called the emergency services and we were given just two minutes to find some clothes and get out of the house," Mrs Britton said. Other families in the street were also told to move out.

"I have been told it is unsafe and I can't go back in," she said. "The experts that have been here say the whole house is likely to collapse."

John Kirkman, Harrogate District Council's chief building control officer, said: "People have been instructed



The remains of the garage hanging over the hole that suddenly opened up in the front garden of Jane Britton's home in North Yorkshire

to move out of their homes in the interests of their own safety. We are monitoring the situation and until insurance engineers and independent engineers can assess the level of danger they cannot move back in."

The collapse is thought to have been caused by a geological fault in the area, possibly

caused by mining for gypsum. Mrs Britton said that holes had appeared in the garden before and that she was in dispute with insurers over responsibility for the damage. The matter was due to go before the High Court in four weeks.

Now Mrs Britton and her partner, Eddie Newcombe, a

butcher, fear they will not be able to move back in. "I don't even know if the house will still be here when the case starts. I have always been afraid that something like this might happen. When I am in the house, every little sound sets me on edge and I start fearing the worst."

North Yorkshire Police said:

"It's a miracle the children were not killed when the hole opened up. Nearby houses were evacuated because there were fears that at least two properties were in danger of disappearing."

The subsidence problem began two years after Mrs Britton bought the three-bedroom house on the outskirts of

Ripon. Within weeks, part of the land in front of the house had collapsed, leaving a hole 20ft deep and 10ft wide.

Since that first collapse, the ground has opened five more times and the hole has been filled with hardcore. Insurers have refused to pay for damage to the house, claiming it to be a natural disaster.

Murderer of twins gets life sentences

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A VIOLENT alcoholic was given two life sentences yesterday for beating identical twins to death during a drinking session and dumping their bodies in a canal.

David Dillon's victims, Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, had slipped from a comfortable middle-class life in Bromham, Bedfordshire, to become violent beggars in north London. Dillon bludgeoned them to death in an apparently motiveless attack and wheeled their bodies hidden in a blanket and carpet through the streets in a shopping trolley to Regent's Canal.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey Judge Grieson told Dillon, 38, he was a danger to the public. He had acted with "cool intelligence" after the murders to conceal any traces and still remained silent about the motives for the killings.

Dillon, an unemployed decorator and originally from Co Cork, had denied murdering the brothers between February and April last year.

Anthony was training as a solicitor and Christopher worked as a landscape gardener before they dropped out in 1991 and began begging on the streets, where they met Dillon. Their father, Jeff, a retired schoolteacher, and stepmother, Elizabeth, cannot explain what happened. One clue may lie with their real mother Patricia, whose marriage broke up, and who also was a chronic alcoholic.

Dartmoor woman is found murdered

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was found murdered at her thatched cottage on Dartmoor yesterday.

Police did not immediately confirm her identity, but she is believed to be Susan Faux, 47, who lived at Hexworthy with her husband, William, a builder, and grown-up daughter, Carrie. The woman, who had head injuries, was found by her daughter at the cottage, called Thimble Hall.

Police, who set up an incident room at Newton Abbot, made house-to-house inquiries in the village, which is four miles from Dartmoor prison. A police helicopter was called to the scene. The murder inquiry is being led by the deputy head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Detective Superintendent John Smith.

Neighbours said they had heard and seen nothing suspicious and did not realise there was anything wrong until police flooded into the village. One friend of the family, who asked not to be named, said: "We do not know what is going on. All we have seen is a lot of blue flashing lights."

"It is a lovely house on the edge of the village but its name gives a slightly grand impression. It is not like a baronial hall or a stately home but it is a very nice large thatched cottage. It would be a real shock for everyone who knows her if anything has happened to Susan."

Neighbours grab driver who killed girl on pavement

BY RICHARD DUCE

WITNESSES to the death of a nine-year-old girl "arrested" the driver of a stolen car after it hit the child as she played on the pavement.

They said the 16-year-old youth staggered from the car clutching a can of cider after the Vauxhall Nova knocked down and killed Teleri West and seriously injured Sean Rogers, 14, her friend and neighbour, outside their homes in the Cardiff suburb of Morganstown.

The girl's mother, Helen West, 32, is four months pregnant. Christopher Lundregan, 26, Teleri's stepfather, said yesterday: "She used to play on the pavement in front of the house all the time. Her mother and I heard a loud bang at about nine o'clock last night and ran out. We saw Teleri lying face down in the road."

The joyrider was standing there with a can of cider in his hand and another one hanging out of his pocket. Some of our neighbours were holding onto him in case he tried to get away. The ambulance arrived, but it was too late."

Nicola Davies, a neighbour, said: "She was a beautiful little girl and always seemed very happy. The whole neighbourhood is devastated."

Arwel Williams, the headmaster of Teleri's Welsh language school, said: "We are in a state of shock like everyone



Teleri West: was playing when the car hit her

else. We have told Teleri's class as tenderly as possible and a few of her close friends are very upset. She was a lovely, happy girl who had a lot of good friends in the school."

Sean Rogers was said last night to be a satisfactory condition at Cardiff Royal Infirmary with leg and hip injuries.

Superintendent Mike Pen, head of South Wales Police traffic division, said: "This is a dreadful tragedy and we would like to express our sympathy to the parents." The car had been stolen from Cardiff city centre earlier in the day. The driver had later failed a breath test.

Last night, a 16-year-old was being held for questioning about Teleri's death.

Inquest told blaze hero 'got a buzz' out of fires

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN who was hailed a hero for saving his four children from a blaze in which his wife died was described at an inquest yesterday as a compulsive liar obsessed by fire.

Patrick Holt, 40, had wept as he denied that he deliberately started the fire that killed his wife Susan, 37. He was accused by a lawyer acting for Derbyshire police of being an attention-seeker who got a "buzz" out of starting fires. His brother and sister said Mr Holt was a compulsive liar who wanted to "play the hero" by saving his family.

John Pollard, the Coroner, sitting in Stockport, recorded an open verdict. He said: "It beggars belief that this was anything other than a deliberate fire."

At one stage yesterday, he told Mr Holt to spend a 45-minute adjournment thinking carefully about the truth. "You have a lot of problems," he said. "You would not want to add perjury to those problems."

The fire last October was the third in eight months at the Holts' home in Glossop, Derbyshire. Mrs Holt's sisters said that three months before her death she had asked the council to rehouse her because she feared that her husband was going to set the house alight. Jacqueline King, Mr Holt's first wife, described how she escaped a fire in their home 20 years ago.

Enigmatic variation sounds out Elgar

BY TIM JONES

MUSIC-LOVERS attending this year's Malvern Elgar Festival will be able to enjoy the chamber music of Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms — but not the larger-scale works of the composer after whom it is named.

Malvern's Winter Gardens theatre and hall complex is being renovated, so the festival is to be held in the much smaller Priory church. The artistic director, William Boughton, said: "We are not doing any Elgar because artistically the music doesn't sit well in the Priory and we are forced to use 36 or 48-piece

orchestras. Elgar really needs 100 to 80 pieces to do him justice."

"Acoustically, it would be a dog's dinner. He is far too great a composer and we are not willing to reduce him to tokenism." Instead they would be using the festival to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Schubert and the 100th anniversary of the death of Brahms.

Although Elgar's works will not feature in the festival, which begins in May, his name will appear on promotional material. Mr Boughton explained: "We want to create an identity for the festival and it would be meaningless dropping the name for one year. Admittedly, it does

seem strange, but events have been rather out of our control. I am sure people will enjoy the festival."

John Harcup, of the Elgar Society, said: "I don't see how one can have an Elgar festival without Elgar. It is incredible."

"I can understand why Elgar's most famous works would be unsuitable for the Priory but lesser-known pieces should be performed. He made his name here and we should be honouring him. They have missed an ideal opportunity to stage lesser-known works which would have proved very interesting."

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) lived for many years in Malvern and died there.

The new Armada 1500 range from Compaq — highly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. Apart from core features like a fast Intel Pentium® processor and 16 MB RAM, these notebooks (including the Armada 1510) boast a wealth of fully integrated extras such as an AC adaptor. The Armada 1520D even incorporates a 10 speed CD-ROM. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little price. For your brochure pack please phone: **0990 50 00 20**

Prices quoted are Typical Buying Prices. Photograph shows Armada 1500D. Price quoted refers to Armada 1510. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

A SINGLE VOTE TO END A SINGLE CURRENCY

A SINGLE CURRENCY WOULD BE IRREVERSIBLE.

A SINGLE CURRENCY WOULD SIGNAL THE END OF SOVEREIGN BRITAIN.

**A SINGLE CURRENCY MEANS INTEREST RATES
AND YOUR MORTGAGE RATE WOULD BE SET IN FRANKFURT.**

A SINGLE CURRENCY IS THE GREEN LIGHT FOR BUILDING A FEDERAL EUROPE.

**THE VAST MAJORITY OF CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES
HAVE RULED OUT JOINING A SINGLE CURRENCY.**

Next Thursday is your only chance to ensure Britain remains an independent sovereign nation. You have a single vote to end a single currency. Make it count. Vote Conservative.

**MORE TRADE
LESS INTERFERENCE.**
This is the way ahead for Britain
as a part of a free Europe.
Europe - Yes ✓ Trade - Yes ✓
A single currency in a single
country called Europe - No ✗

CONSERVATIVE



**WAKE UP TO THE FACTS BRITAIN.
VOTE CONSERVATIVE ON MAY 1st.**

Viewers
watch T

Addicts are

heal
offe

PPP h

P

Call now
0800

Canary Wharf neighbours lose interference case

Viewers have no right to watch TV, say law lords

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

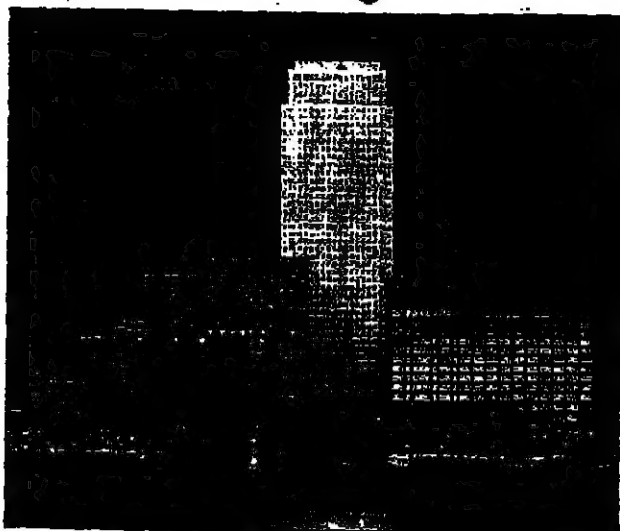
WATCHING television is not a fundamental right, the House of Lords has ruled. Residents living near Britain's tallest office block have been barred from seeking damages for having their picture reception ruined.

The 750 residents, led by a Roman Catholic nun and community worker, had complained about more than two years of interference caused by the 790ft Canary Wharf Tower in London's Docklands. Yesterday's ruling was critical of the claim that missing television did not count as a nuisance in legal terms.

"Television is now almost as important a part of daily life as electricity, gas and water supplies, and people have a fundamental right to receive it," she said.

"We brought this case not just for us, but so that other people wouldn't be trampled on and treated as if they had no rights by big conglomerates. This is sad result for the little people, for those who don't have money or a big voice."

One of the complainants was Rose Humphries, 72, a widow who is recovering from breast cancer. She said: "I spend a lot of time at home on my own watching television. For two years when we had



Canary Wharf Tower: eastenders could not watch EastEnders when the building blocked TV signals

the interference, I would have a picture and then suddenly it would disappear.

"I like the soaps, especially EastEnders, even though it is not really like life in the East End. When the picture went, I had to keep telephoning my daughter to find out what happened next."

In a unanimous judgment by five law lords, Lord Goff of Chieveley conceded that television "must provide a great distraction and relief from the circumscribed nature of the lives" of aged, lonely and bedridden people. However, the deprivation of tele-

vision pictures did not constitute a nuisance.

"The mere fact that a building on the defendant's land gets in the way and so prevents something from reaching the plaintiff's land is generally speaking not enough for this purpose," he said.

Lord Hope of Craighead said that, because television and radio signals were invisible, it would be impossible for developers to know of their existence before putting up a building.

The Canary Wharf Tower reflects about 80 per cent of

television signals — as opposed to 5 per cent by most buildings — because of its flat stainless steel cladding and metalised windows. The television reception for many local residents was disrupted from 1989 until the installation of a new transmitter in 1992.

The residents' case was funded by Legal Aid, and costs ran into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Sally Moore, a solicitor with Leigh Day representing the residents, said she thought that her clients would feel that the justice system had let them down: "The ruling is basically equating the right to receive a television signal with the right to have a view or light through your window. It gives no more protection than that."

"What it is saying is that, if your television signals are fine, and then somebody comes and puts a great big building in front of the signals, then don't look to the law to protect you."

A spokeswoman for Canary Wharf Limited welcomed the ruling. She said: "As a developer, we well recognise the responsibilities to the local community, and when we became aware of the problem with television reception we were instrumental in arranging with the London Docklands Development Corporation and the BBC for a repeater transmitter to be installed."

Addicts are urged to kick the habit

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION viewers were urged yesterday to store their sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes at the start of Turn Off TV Week.

The campaign by the pressure group, White Dot aims to help television addicts to quit their habit for a week and encourage them to devote leisure time to more creative activities. David Burke, its founder, said the hours spent by most people in front of the box was eroding the quality of family life and undermining society. "A lot of people say, 'I watch a little bit of television, but only the good things.' Well, it's been shown that Britons watch an average of 3½ hours a day, so either somebody's watching an awful lot, or people are lying."

A week without television would break

the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives, he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television

Society's biennial conference in Cambridge that television provided a vital "window on the world" to viewers by informing them of important social issues.

John Woodward, the chief executive of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, which represents programme-makers, said the campaign was "absolute nonsense. Television is the most important force for education and communication in Western civilisation. There may be one of two countries where it could do some good not to watch television for a week, but the UK is not one of them because the quality of our programming is so high."

Radio and television, pages 50, 51



Alwyn Phillips: "I didn't say I was married. It didn't come up in conversation"

New love from dating agency ended with a brief encounter

BY ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN decided on a swift revenge when she discovered that the new love she met through a dating agency was already married. Margaret Ruddlesden reached for her sewing kit and a pair of his underpants.

Ms Ruddlesden, 47, an occupational therapist, then confronted Alwyn Phillips's wife, handing her the underpants on which she had sewn the words "Lying bastard". Her next visit was to her solicitors, to seek advice on suing the agency, Close Encounters (of the Best Kind).

Ms Ruddlesden, of Shirehampton, Bristol, maintains that it assured her Mr Phillips was divorced. The agency says it told her the Phillips were merely estranged.

She said: "I joined the agency to find love and I ended up having my heart broken. I was interviewed in great depth by the agency



Margaret Ruddlesden: she wants to sue agency

and I presumed the same thing happened with other members.

The two dated for three weeks. Mr Phillips, also 47, sent her red roses. By her own admission, she was smitten. His double life emerged when she discovered his address from driving documents.

Yesterday Mr Phillips, who has two children, was unre-

pentant. Speaking from his home in Winterbourne, Bristol, the frozen-food worker said: "I don't feel as if I have lied to anyone. I didn't tell Margaret I was still married as it didn't come up in the conversation."

"My wife and I are leading separate lives. We had agreed on a divorce long before I joined the dating agency. I joined to meet someone new and rebuild my life, but the relationship with Margaret was not working so I told her to cool it. She couldn't accept it and started causing trouble. My estranged wife was indifferent when Margaret handed her the pants."

Tim Holmes, who founded Close Encounters, said the agency would consider refunding Ms Ruddlesden's £417 joining fee as a goodwill gesture. He added: "We try to take every possible precaution. Mr Phillips told us he was separated from his wife and we took his word for it."

Writing songs is therapy to me, says Sir Paul

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MUSIC gave Sir Paul McCartney the strength to cope with the trauma of his wife's illness, he said. It was a form of therapy that stopped him "going round the bend" while Lady McCartney underwent treatment in her fight against breast cancer.

In an interview in *The Times* today, he says: "Music has always been a consolation for me. When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'Why can't we get it together — our piano can.'"

"If you asked a lot of songwriters, you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song. I do that all the time."

"Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now. It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

His latest album, *Flaming Pie*, to be released on May 12, is streaked with melancholy. It features *Little Willow*, which was written after Maureen Starkey, Ringo Starr's first wife, died of cancer. "The morning I heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

He says half of his songs are personal and the other half are rip-off throwaways, such as *Yellow Submarine*. "Some of them are very much me doing therapy with myself and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly."

"I'm sure a psychiatrist would look at it and find that Desmond and Molly are just both halves of my alter-ego or something. The truth about it is that I don't think about it. I've always seen the whole songwriting process as being magical."

Interview, page 37

ADVERTISEMENT

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PAUL SYKES

Dear Reader

There has been much media discussion over the number of Conservative candidates who have confirmed to their local electorate, in their personal manifestos, that they would not vote in favour of a European single currency.

Before the election was called and before candidates went out canvassing for support, no-one knew the overwhelming opposition on the doorstep to a single currency. Many of the candidates had already ruled out a single currency, but of course many more are now responding to what the electorate wants to hear - Conservatives do not want to abolish the pound. Conservatives do not want a single economy for the whole of Europe run from a European Central Bank. Conservatives do not want their interest rates and mortgage rates decided in Frankfurt. Conservatives do not want to give up our gold and dollar reserves, they know that a single currency is the major irreversible step to building a Federal Europe.

There is no half way house. A single currency means ultimately a single country. To achieve a single currency without ultimately having a single country would be a world first - there is no such thing. The people of Britain in ever increasing numbers are becoming aware of this, that is why they want us to say *no* to a single currency *now*. They do not want to wait two or three years for a woolly worded referendum from either of the main political parties.

What the people of Britain want to see is more trade with our European partners; they know that it is trade that creates peace and prosperity among nations, not politics.

I liken Chancellor Kohl to a train driver. All the time the ultimate destination of the train is a Federal Europe, but the driver slows down for the odd bend and while the passengers talk about business, trade and jobs, the train speeds up again and continues onwards towards its destination. As Chancellor Kohl himself put it, "in two years time, the process of integration will be irreversible". This is despite the fact that many surveys in Germany have shown that over 90% of its people do not want to scrap the Deutschmark and show how his political ambitions take precedence over the wishes of even his own nation.

Voters at this election are receiving promises from all the major parties on tax matters, legal reforms and other changes which affect their daily lives. If we do not rule out a single currency now and the federal agenda is achieved, all these discussions and promises will be irrelevant. These decisions would all be taken by the Federal Government of Europe.

There is now an overwhelming majority of candidates in Conservative held seats who have committed themselves to opposing a single currency. The electorate now know that if a Conservative Government is re-elected, then because of the free vote given by John Major, single currency proposals would not be endorsed by the House of Commons.

Voters now have a clear choice. Vote Conservative for Britain to remain a free and independent trading nation. Vote Labour for the adoption of single currency proposals, the Social Chapter, and further surrender of political and economic control over our country's affairs.

Now that the *real* facts about our relationship with Europe are starting to emerge, the voice of Britain is at long last beginning to be heard. I love my country and its enduring democracy and will fight all the way to retain its sovereignty intact.

Yours faithfully

PAUL SYKES

Does your current health insurance cover all this?

FROM ONLY **£8** A MONTH

healthcare

Call now and get your first month free
0800 33 55 55 Ref: 5957

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel. No. (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
Date of birth / / (Please print - we cannot give you a quotation without this data.)
Name of other adult to be included _____
Date of birth / /
Number of children under 21 to be included _____
If you have a current health insurance policy, please give your current date _____ Ref: 5957

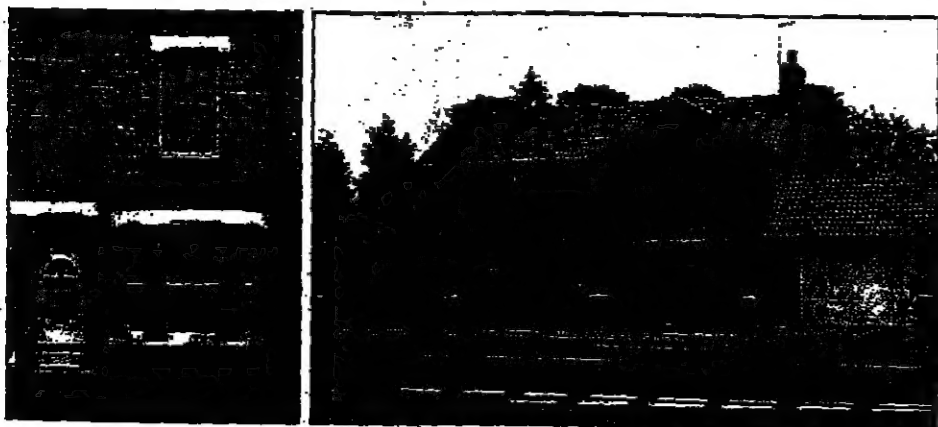
Mother claimed rent benefit to develop £200,000 house

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN planned and built a £200,000 house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit. Jacqueline Hull used the state handout over a five-year period to help develop Suncliffe Lodge, a five-bedroom detached home. She convinced council officials, and staff at subsidised accommodation run by the Joseph Rowntree Trust, that she was a penniless mother of three, abandoned by her husband and struggling to survive in rented housing.

In fact she was a property owner with her own business, running a slimming club. The only time she was homeless was when she sold her terraced house at a profit to reinvest in her building project. It was then that the trust provided her with a home.

The story of how Hull, 40, cheated her way from a £20,000 house in a back street in York to an imposing residence less than a mile away in Huntington unfolded during her trial at York Crown Court,



Hull made £30,000 on her terraced home, left, and built Suncliffe Lodge

where she was convicted of four specimen charges of deception.

Sentence was postponed for eight weeks after North Yorkshire Police said they were considering a request for confiscation of Hull's assets. They want to investigate her financial background and discover exactly what she owns.

Julian Gorse, for the prosecution, said that, in 1985, Hull and her husband bought a terraced house in Acomb, York. Three years later he left

her and transferred sole ownership to her.

Soon afterwards she applied to the city council for housing benefit, stating that she was a tenant in the house. She filled in application forms giving false details.

She initially claimed £45 a week. When she increased the claim to £50, she said the rent had gone up, but in fact her mortgage interest had risen and she wanted the increase to cover it.

The allowances were paid

home towards developing the building plot in Huntington. The rest of the cash came from a £70,000 mortgage based on her slimming business.

But an internal audit at York council exposed her double dealing and, by the time the new house was completed in early 1994, she had been arrested on suspicion of fraud.

Hull told the court she could not afford to move into the new property, saying: "I could not have afforded to even turn the heating on, let alone run it." She put the house up for sale with an asking price of £200,000, but eventually agreed a swap for a house valued at about £70,000 at Crambeck, between York and Malton, and cash to make up the balance.

Throughout her trial Hull maintained that she had not been dishonest, but merely followed the instructions of her mother when filling in forms and making applications. She claimed that the plot of land at Huntington was owned by her mother and that, after she had repaid all her loans, she was again penniless.



Jacqueline Hull convinced officials she was homeless

Complaints about rail reliability rise by 56%

By A STAFF REPORTER

COMPLAINTS by rail passengers in southern England in the year to March were 56 per cent up on the previous year and the highest of the decade. A total of 1,024 complaints were received by the South of England Rail Users' Consultative Committee.

The committee's latest figures include February and March when South West Trains cancelled 39 trains a day because of driver shortages. The committee said complaints about reliability had shown a significant increase in the final quarter of the year. It also blamed SWT and another privatised company, Connex South Eastern, for an increase in complaints about information at stations.

The anti-privatisation group, Save Our Railways, which released the figures, said yesterday that the level of complaints showed privatisation was not working. Keith Bill, the national secretary, said: "Commuters are sick of seeing companies making fat-cat profits while quality services deteriorate."

Big game hunts are rigged, says TV sleuth

By MICHAEL HORNISBY

LIONS, tigers, gorillas and other wild animals, many of them endangered and legally protected, are being killed in rigged hunts, costing thousands of pounds, for the pleasure of wealthy American and European tourists, a television investigation claims.

In film from South Africa a lioness is shown being separated from her bewildered cubs and shot by a German hunter only a few yards away from them on the other side of a wire fence. It takes ten shots and several minutes for the animal to die.

The footage is contained in *Making A Killing*, the first in a new series of *The Cook Report*, to be transmitted by ITV on May 6, in which the veteran investigator, Roger Cook, poses as a wealthy businessman keen to shoot big game. "We discovered that, if you have enough money and the right contacts, you can go and shoot any animal in the world, no matter how rare or protected by law, that species may be," Cook says.

"You do not even have to be a good shot because the animals are often baited into fenced areas or drugged so they become sitting targets."

In the Mokolo Game Ranch in South Africa, Cook, using the alias of James Rogers, agrees to pay \$18,000 (£11,000) for a guaranteed opportunity to shoot a lion.

In Spain a middleman is seen offering Cook the chance of shooting gorillas in Cameroon and tigers in Malaysia.

Scientists create the eight-day petunia

By NIGEL HAWKES

GENETIC engineering has created a petunia that keeps its flowers four times longer than normal. Herry Klee, of the University of Florida, says that any type of flower could be made to last longer in the garden and in the house.

"We've had flowers that have lasted for weeks on the laboratory bench," says Dr Klee. "We're very excited about it. I think it will be important for the florist industry and for the gardener. The aim is to put the gene into varieties that the gardener will use for bedding plants."

The petunias were given a defective gene from *Arabidopsis*, a small weed-like plant that has been the subject of intensive investigation. The gene is responsible for making the receptor for ethylene, a gas that ripens fruit and makes flowers shed their petals. The engineered plants cannot produce the receptor, the "socket" into which the ethylene plugs.

If the plants cannot sense ethylene, they do not shed their flowers. In laboratory experiments, Dr Klee reports in *Nature Biotechnology*, petunias which would lose their flowers in two days lasted eight.

So far, Dr Klee has grown the plants only in the greenhouse. Permission is needed from American regulatory authorities before genetically modified plants can be grown out of doors, and it is likely to be some years before the plants are available in garden centres.

Satellite data confirm supercontinent theory

SATELLITE data have helped to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The observations, made by the European Space Agency's satellite ERS-1, confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that once made up the supercontinent of Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be put together to recreate Gondwanaland, but only if an

extra piece, called the Bellingshausen Plate, is used to fill a gap where New Zealand broke away from Antarctica. It is assumed that the missing piece must have fused with the Antarctic plate, but proving it has been impossible.

Now, thanks to ERS-1 data, it is reported in *Science* that seabed topography provides the first clear proof that Antarctica was in two pieces 60 million years ago.

How many extra orders will you drum up with BT's new **Freefone** offer?



Renewing your home insurance in April or May and want to save money?

- * Saga - The specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, low cost cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Discount for secure homes

Call free today! **SAGA** Services Ltd

0800 414 525 Quoting reference TMI4715

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

These services are provided by Saga Insurance Ltd. For more information about services provided by other Saga companies and how your details to these companies to enable them to do so.

Up to 7½ hours of free calls every month, for 3 months.

A BT Freefone number can attract three times as many customers. That's three times as much extra business. And if that's not enough to persuade you to set one up, apply by July 21st (for connection by August 31st) and BT will give your business up to 7½ hours

of Freefone calls, free. Every month for three months. So not only are calls free to your customers, they're free to you too. Blooming marvellous! For more information on Freefone numbers and details of this offer call BT Businessconnections on Freefone 0800 800 800.

Freefone 0800 800 800

Freefone 0800 800 955 e-mail: worksmile@bt.com bt.com

*Offer is for 3 months and starts from the first day of the month following connection.

BT

Warning of child malnutrition

Stores accused of promoting bad diets among poor

By Robin Young

MANY British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly than they were at the start of the 1980s, according to two reports published today.

Supermarket chains are accused of contributing to the degradation of poor people's diets by one of the reports, from the National Food Alliance. A survey of special lines in leading supermarkets found that most items being promoted were fatty and sugary processed foods.

Some had no nutrition information on the labels and those that did often failed to give details about the sugar or saturated fat content. The best bargains, according to the report's author, Tim Lobstein, were usually bulk buys, which were only of use to those with ready money, a car for transport and space for storage.

Lack of money, inadequate shopping facilities and poor transport were the main causes of food poverty in Britain, according to the briefing paper. It says that poor

diets are not a result of ignorance or fecklessness.

The hardest hit among low-income groups, it says, are women, particularly those with young children. Young people and the elderly are also badly affected. While high-income families eat healthier foods such as low-fat milk, wholemeal bread, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables, low-income families eat more fat, sugar and salt and less of the essential nutrients, the paper says, arguing that diet explains why poor people have greater risk of dying prematurely from high blood pressure, heart disease or stroke.

In a separate report, the famine relief charity Save the Children gives a warning that increasing numbers of children in Britain will be at risk of malnutrition in the next century unless urgent action is taken.

Its report shows that poorer families living in deprived areas are unable to give their children the food they need because they do not have access to a good variety of food.

Women living on estates in

London, Glasgow, Coventry, Sunderland and Belfast had incomes that, despite their resourcefulness and best efforts, would not stretch to a balanced diet for their children, the report says. Without access to supermarkets selling fresh foods at reasonable prices, many women reported missing meals themselves so that their children should not go hungry.

Mike Aaronson, Save the Children's director-general, said yesterday: "It is shocking that we are facing the spectre of child malnutrition here. Lack of money, difficulty reaching decent affordable food and lack of safety nets are key factors. We call on the Government to make a firm commitment to develop clear policies which will build on low-income families' efforts to feed their children properly."

□ "If they don't eat a healthy diet it's their own fault": Myths about food and low income. Dr Tim Lobstein (National Food Alliance, 5-11

Worship Street, EC2A 2BH; £20) □ Out of the Frying Pan: The true cost of feeding a family on a low income (Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8RD; in return for donation)



Eating without stopping: on average, Britons eat a hamburger every five days and spend £41 a year on fast food

Britain is fast-food capital of Europe

BRITAIN spends more on fast food than any of the other main European countries, according to market research (Robin Young writes). Mintel estimates that Britons will spend almost £2.5 billion on hamburgers, pizza and chicken meals sold through fast-food chains this year, an average of £41 per head.

That compares with an estimated expenditure of £29 per head in France, £20 in Germany and £11 in Spain. The Italians come bottom of the fast-food league, spending only £3 per head.

Hamburgers dominate the fast-food market in all five countries, particularly in France, where they account for 88 per cent of fast-food sales. The proportion is only marginally smaller in Italy and Germany (86 per cent and 85 per cent

THE BIG SPENDERS

	Annual (£m)	Per head (£)
UK	2,425	41
France	1,701	29
Germany	1,680	20
Spain	427	11
Italy	176	3

Pizza, hamburger and chicken chains only (Source: Mintel)

respectively). In Britain and Spain sales are more evenly divided between hamburgers and pizzas, while chicken takes a minor share. In Italy sales of fast-food chicken are almost non-existent.

The survey's findings equate to the average Briton eating a hamburger every five days, or two pieces of fried

chicken every three weeks, the researchers say.

Hamburgers are relatively cheaper in Britain than any of the other countries surveyed, with McDonald's and Burger King competing aggressively for market share. McDonald's British profits were £45 million in 1995, compared with a worldwide profit from 21,000 stores in 101 countries of just under £1 billion.

Chris Butcher, Mintel's leisure analyst, said yesterday: "Fast food is benefiting from the increasing trend towards snacking and convenience foods. Britain is the fast-food capital of Europe. The success of fast food in general lies in the standardised menus, where quality, quantity and price are guaranteed."

□ European Fast Food (Mintel: £495)

Council sunlamps 'safer' for the tanorexics

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE risk of contracting skin cancer from sunbeds is far greater in private health clubs than at council leisure centres, a skin expert says today. Sunbeds available in the commercial sector were said to emit a significantly greater level of dangerous ultraviolet rays.

The warning by Dr Andrew Wright, a consultant dermatologist from Bradford, comes as the Imperial Cancer Research Fund is highlighting the risks of "tanorexia" — suffered by sunbed addicts whose desire for a permanent tan leaves them with premature wrinkles, a leathery appearance, fragile, thin skin and a heightened risk of skin cancer.

Dr Wright tested 50 sunbeds and found that there was a threefold variation in the output of ultraviolet A. Overall, the levels in the 33 in council-run establishments were much lower.

Councils are being advised to remove sunbeds because of mounting evidence that they can cause serious skin cancers. However, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Wright says: "Without further education of the public in the potential danger of sunbeds, their removal from local authority premises will drive those who wish to use them into the private sector, where the dangers may be greater."

About 11 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men use indoor tanning equipment. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund says that a tenth of them are in danger of becoming "tanorexics", using a sunbed more than 30 times a year.

Dr Veronique Patel, consultant dermatologist at the Royal London Hospital, said that many women, particularly in urban areas, liked to keep a constant tan: "These women have had a tanned skin for so many years now that they cannot give it up, even when you tell them it is dangerous. They get really miserable when you tell them they should stop, and most of them can't."

In a new fact sheet for the summer, the fund warns that 30 minutes on a sunbed will give the equivalent dose of ultraviolet A radiation as a full day on the beach. This type of radiation is the main kind emitted by sunbeds and was believed to be safe until recently.

The fund says its research shows that there is no safe level of use for sunbeds. While not calling for a ban, it wants people to understand the risks. The safest cure for tanorexia, it says, is a dye to tint the skin, used in conjunction with a very high protection sun cream.

Transition of HIV to Aids is speeding up

By Ian Murray

HIV has become more aggressive in the 1990s, with infected people progressing to Aids twice as fast on average than in the past.

A study of 285 patients infected between 1985 and 1995 has shown that those who contracted the disease after December 1989 had a higher probability of decline in their immunity system and began suffering from Aids sooner than those who were infected before that date.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved regular testing of patients who tested positive but had been negative at some time in the previous 12 months.

The patients included 208 men and 87 women, aged between 17 and 61 of whom 163 were drug injectors, 64 male homosexuals and 56 heterosexuals. The research showed that age, sex, social background, or the way in which a person became infected, made no difference to the findings.

Pig diseases will push up pork price

By Robin Young

PRICES for bacon, ham and pork are bound to rise shortly because of outbreaks of swine fever in Holland and foot and mouth disease in Taiwan. British supermarkets say that so far they have absorbed the increased cost of the international surge in pig meat prices but small butchers have already had to increase prices of bacon and pork by about 10 per cent.

Advertised promotions this week include: Asda: rump steak £6.49 kg, pork chops £2.99, frozen premium cod fillets in batter £2.85 for 600g, cherry tomatoes 49p for 227g, broccoli 45p lb, raspberries 99p for 125g.

Co-op: stewing steak £2.84 kg, turkey thigh joint with herb seasoning £2.49 for 800g, Cherry Valley crispy Peking duck £4.59 for 400g, asparagus tips £1.49 for 100g, South African sweet potatoes 60p lb, vintage Siltan £6.49 kg, garlic calamari £1.09 for 230g, pitta breads 55p for eight.

Harrods: Thai pork ribs £4.50 kg, grilled vegetables £2.29 for 100g, pumpkin tortelloni £1.99 for 100g, Culatello parma ham £5.99 for 100g, Buchette Sariente goats cheese £3.99 each.

Leeds: chicken quarter portions £1.99 for four, part boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg, roast chicken legs £1.19 for 220g, cod fillet fish fingers £1.39 for 16, rainbow trout £2.99 for 800g, whole beans 74p for 907g, garden peas £1.49 for 1.81kg.

Kwik Save: Ross tendergrill grillsteaks £1.67 for six, Lion mixed herbs 33p, Shloer £1.39 for 100g, Anchor butter 61p for 250g, Lurpak butter 78p for 250g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast portions £2.99 for four, quiche Lorraine £1.49 for 400g, haddock fillets in light crisp breadcrumb £2.99 for four, Tuscan extra virgin

olive oil £2.99 for 500ml, strawberries £1.99 for 500g, NZ Cox apples £1.59 for six.

Morrisons: beef brisket £1.49 lb, frying steak £3.28 kg, turkey steak £4.38 kg, mackerel 85p lb, plaice fillet £3.39 lb, prepared iceberg lettuce 79p for 250g, large oranges 66p for six, Sun Red seedless grapes 99p lb.

Sainsbury's: frying steak £6.49 kg, medium chicken £1.89 kg, rainbow trout £3.49 for four (850g), unsmoked bacon steaks 69p for 200g, buffet pork pies 99p for four, mature Cheddar cheese £1.99 lb, corned beef 29p lb.

Sainsbury's: fresh NZ leg of lamb £5.29 kg, boneless pork leg £3.99 kg, silverside/topside beef £4.38 kg, frozen prawns £3.79 for 400g, frozen chicken breast £3.95 for 400g.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

900g, Jersey Royal new potatoes 49p lb, plums 79p lb, black seedless grapes 74p lb. Somerfield: boneless rolled pork shoulder roast £2.79 kg, meat loaf in gravy £1.65 for 450g, turkey breast steaks £2.39 for four (450g), smoked haddock fillet £1.88 lb, tomatoes 79p for 12, carrots 29p for 500g, prepared iceberg lettuce 79p for 200g.

Waitrose: eight mixed pork sausages (370g) £1.35, diced veal £2.49 for 340g, dried braised beef £2.59 for 500g, free range chickens up to 2.3 kg £2.99, frozen petit pois 99p for 250g, red onions 69p lb, beansprouts 45p for 250g, cauliflower 49p lb, avocado pears 99p for two, Jonagold apples 45p lb.

The Link

NEW ORANGE ALL-INCLUSIVE MOBILE PACKAGE

INCLUDES

A YEAR'S LINE RENTAL
15 MINUTES OF CALLS EVERY MONTH
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE • CONNECTION FEE

SAVE
OVER
£75*

£199.99*
INCLUDES CONNECTION

Motorola DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE PACKAGE

- Up to 150 minutes talktime/ 40 hours standby
- 185 name and number memory
- Rapid charger supplied - charges phone in just 90 minutes
- Fax, Data and Short Message compatible

Model: MR30

Dancall DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/ 16 hours standby
- 85 name and number memory
- Answerphone message alert

Model: DC1

£9.99†

Nokia DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 100 minutes talktime/ 21 hours standby
- 205 name and number memory
- Fax and data compatible

Model: 5.1

£79.99†

HOW YOU SAVE MONEY WITH 2 ORANGE MOBILE PHONES

- Free connection on the second phone.
- Buy both phones at the same time and save up to £70.
- One itemised bill.
- Share up to 200 minutes of inclusive calls every month.
- Weekend calls under 6p per minute.
- Calls between the phones just 12p per minute.

The Link

Web site: www.the-link.co.uk

*When you connect to the Orange All-Inclusive package. †When compared to monthly option of £17.63 per month plus £35.25 connection fee and cost of phone at £209.99 = £276.80. Total saving £76.81.

When you connect to an Orange Group Talk tariff, connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

ELECTION 97

On the stump with
Bell's bellesWhat the parties say
about IrelandArthur Scargill hits out
at the 'turncoat Tories'
of New Labour

Page 15

Blair waits to unwrap the train set

The Times,
continuing its
interviews with
party leaders,
talks to
Tony Blair

By PETER STOTHARD

When we spoke to Paddy Ashdown last week it was in the artificial light of the Editor's windowless office at *The Times*. When we spoke to John Major it was in the sharp natural light of the first floor at Downing Street. Tony Blair spoke to us yesterday afternoon in the half-light, at cloudy moments almost the gloaming, of his Islington front-room. As fell the light, so fell the conversations.

The Labour leader was as guarded in his words as the Prime Minister had been bold; he was as mysterious as Ashdown had been bright. Sitting in front of the net curtains, beneath a barely visible poster for his local Labour candidate, he was like a friendly fortune-teller. When the sun found a way through to his face, it lit up just half of it, a mere three of the famous shining teeth, a few paper petals of the peonies in a bowl by his side and one sleeve of his new regulation-purple casual shirt. The other side lay in colourless obscurity.

It was a peculiar feeling for us — and it seemed so for him too. We were talking about an election that he knows he has won, about a job he already knows to be his, in a manner that allowed the open admission of neither of those facts.

Peter Riddell began by asking about his plans for government, the possibility that he might put into action his ideas about ending "tribal politics", that he may bring an outsider into the Cabinet or change Whitehall structures. Blair did not rule out any of these prospects. He saw the advantages of a new Labour government being quickly different in style from its predecessors. But he promised only "the broadest use of the talents available" and a "leading role" for John Prescott before lapsing into smiles of concealment.

When the questioning became especially intrusive, he would give a grand unbroken smile, the sort that the cartoonists love, saying better by this than by any words that there were territories, large dark areas of territory, that this interview was not going to explore. "We can offer a fresh start in politics as in everything else... and, having won as new Labour, we are going to govern as new Labour," he told us, looking ceilingward as one of two small chandeliers.

After that Blair became more cheerful — expatiating along the lines familiar from his campaign speeches. We heard about education and health and welfare-to-work and his toughness on crime and his causes. Neither his content nor his manner of delivery provided the slightest distraction from the consideration of what his previous remark about "governing as new Labour" might mean.

His mandate, as he sees it, will not be to reverse Tory

reforms: "There is no point in being daft about it... there's plenty of things that are very good about Britain... and there's no point in being silly and saying that the country is falling to bits. It's not." There is, even more, certainly no mandate for old Labour programmes: "Unwanted policies that are stuck in the past." The mandate is for new Labour.

What is new Labour, we are left to wonder. Is it simply what the voters voted for? What are the voters voting for? For new Labour. But what is new Labour? If the Blairs' front room had had a piano — and a piano seemed strangely absent amid this plain and comfortable Victorian setting — we might have turned this paradox into a new Labour song, to the tune of *Frère Jacques* or *London Bridge is Falling Down*.

Riddell brought us back to reality by repeating his questions about Labour's plans for government in slightly different ways. Blair's answers mingled amusement at our effrontery and apprehension lest even talking about power might yet deprive him of it. He showed a superstition that seemed to me to be almost childlike. It is as though a young boy knows that Christmas is coming and that there is a new train set waiting for him in the attic; and yet he worries that to talk about passenger-carriages, points or stations might irritate Father Christmas and keep the gift locked up in the chimney.

Anatole Kaletsky likened him later to a man with a winning lottery ticket on a Saturday night who sits immobile in a corner, unable to believe that his luck is real, until the Monday morning when the shop that sold him the ticket opens and he can hold the prize in his hand.

Despite the reticence, however, it does seem that Labour voters who expect a dash of instant activity to distinguish a Blair government from the Tory past will be disappointed. "I'm not a great believer in a dazzling first hundred days which then disappears up in

smoke," he said. "I much prefer to be continually communicating why we're doing things on education and welfare, taking it step by step along the road of a different direction." He tells us that people did not want a revolution and "barricades in the streets". And we sit there wondering when anyone last thought that they did.

Kaletsky asked him about what new Labour could seriously do without imposing new taxation, reminding him that the Association of British Chambers of Commerce is merely the latest independent organisation to say that new taxation will be necessary. The only other people who believe in the Tory spending pledges apart from the Tories are you and Gordon Brown, he gibes.

Blair humps back into his armchair at this point. He clearly knows that Kaletsky is

telling the truth. The bright side of his face looks as though it might even rise to the bait. But the dark side wins. He looks down and twists his feet in his black suede shoes as though he could make a fist with his toes or even kick back a response like his footballing photo-opportunity partner, Kevin Keegan. And then he subsides back into the official response that "there are no hidden spending promises that require hidden taxes... we can't work on the assumption that the Conservative budget is wrong".

Why not, Kaletsky asks, you accuse them of lying about everything else? The answer is a smile. If he were to challenge the Treasury figures, the Tories could accuse Labour of wanting to tax and spend more. If that accusation were believed, Labour would lose votes. So, the smile continues.

Kaletsky retires in impatience. My own certainty about tax is simply hardened by all this play. Times-reading tax-payers are being hugged now in order to be squeezed later.

Blair says that's what they say goes by he thinks of governing more and of electing less. He admitted that he was nervous at the beginning of the campaign but says that he is now more relaxed and is even enjoying himself. He certainly looks at ease as he sets out his general approach to the failure of schools and GP fundholders. And then he suddenly starts up again. Perhaps he thinks he is being too relaxed, or even, sin and horror, complacent. He jumps forward in his chair and attacks his critics for failing to give credit for all the advances that Labour has made: for example the pension proposals of Chris Smith, the local candidate whose name is twice in the window.

He claps his left palm with the back of his right hand, making a clasp to accompany every point. I count ten single claps before the speech is over, followed by bursts of clapping to back up subsidiary points. We are no longer in the mood for *Frère Jacques*. If there were a trumpet behind the pale gold curtains, or a set of drums under the tapestry-laden stairs, we could all be doing the cha-cha-cha.

When he is on the campaigning offensive, the Labour leader is as confident as the conductor of a seaside dance band — almost fragrant with the confidence that he can do the business without thinking too much, almost gleaming with the certainty that the performance always goes down well and will continue to do so. It is in those other and governing moments, the ones that he says are increasing in number every day, that there are the signs of fear.

He wants to be seen as a radical. "There is something improbable about being a radical leader of the Labour Party and a cautious prime minister. I won't be. I'll be a radical prime minister." He wants to be seen as a doer, not

a sayer: "The single most frustrating thing about opposition politics is that you're always saying, never doing." But there nothing in the substance of our interview that suggests that the Opposition cast of mind has yet changed, that the saying man is poised to be the doing man next week. Perhaps his plans are crystallising by the day and he is simply wary of displaying them to potential Tory attack. Or perhaps he has many fewer fixed plans than we think and is genuinely unconcerned about his Hundred Days and the need to keep the momentum of victory.

He is curiously dismissive of the constitutional proposals that are set to be the centrepiece of his first legislative programme. He does not repeat the gaffe of early in the campaign when he likened a Scottish assembly to a parish council. But he does say that after five years in office he does not expect any constitutional change to be his greatest legacy. "The improvements in education will be much more important than that," he says.

When we interviewed Major last week he was keen that Blair should take advice from him about how to negotiate in Europe. Blair says that he is perfectly happy to take him up on this offer. "He meant it in a responsible way and I take it in that spirit." Blair's own position, however, despite the hardening Eurosceptic rhetoric in recent press articles, is not reassuring. He gives his usual description of the "big" (sometimes "formidable") obstacles to Britain entering a European monetary union. When Kaletsky presses him on what precisely these obstacles are, all his answers concern obstacles to EMU itself going ahead. None of them relates to Britain's decision to give up the pound and enter the system.

Blair confirms in this context that "we are not talking about technical obstacles such as Bank of England indepen-

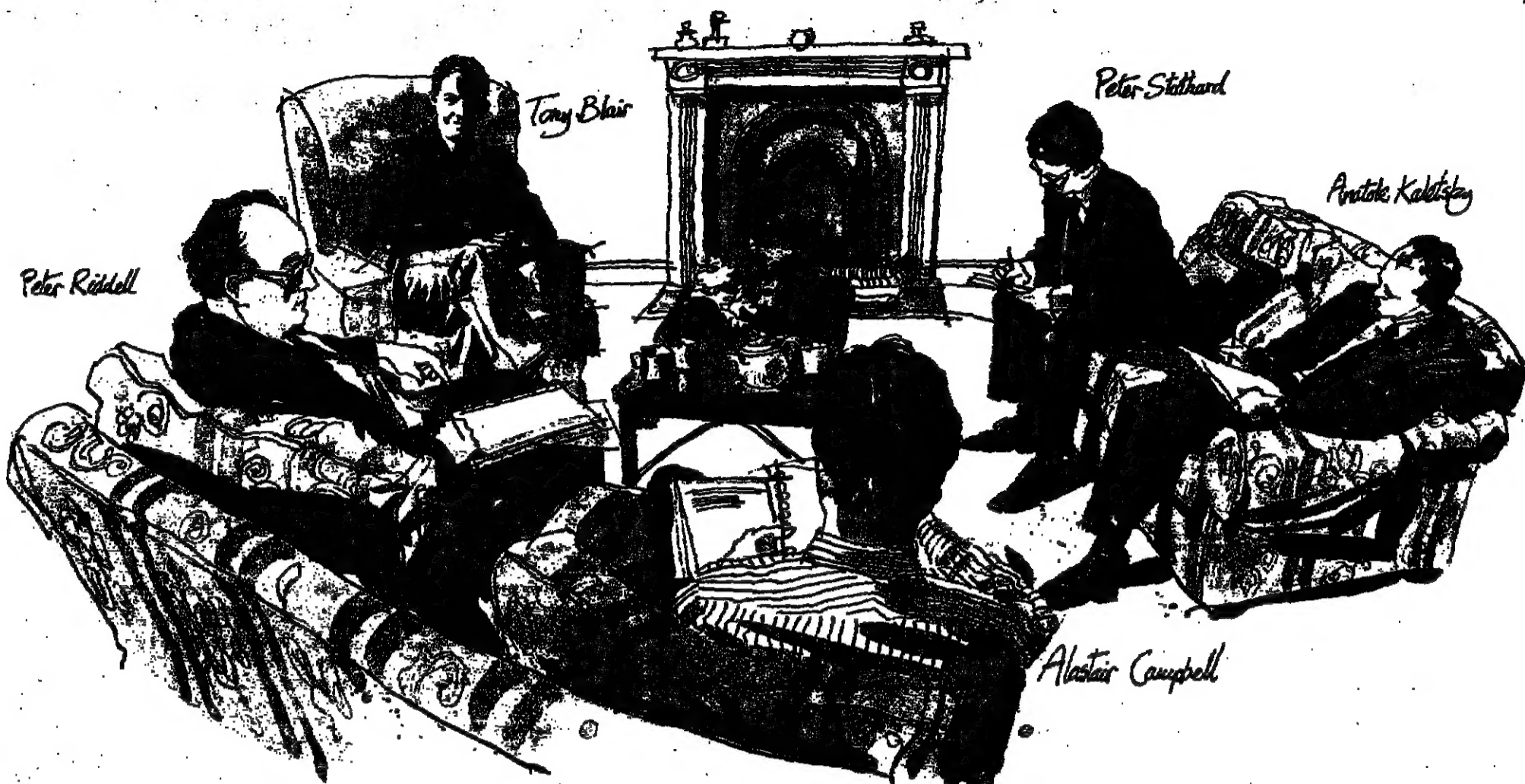
dence". Riddell asks him about how Britain could avoid isolation in a "flexible Europe" — and receives no good answer. Kaletsky asks about what he might bring back from the inter-governmental conference as a token of the new new-Labour relationship with his partners. He cites reform of the common agricultural policy, progress on enlargement of EU membership and completion of the single market. This seems to us a hefty agenda for one weekend.

Kaletsky, who as readers will have seen this week formed a far-from-favourable impression of Major at our meeting, agreed with the Prime Minister on this point. "Blair will be eaten alive at Amsterdam," he prophesies as we leave.

Blair himself insists that

Major and Kaletsky are wrong. "I haven't been ripped to pieces yet in my political career and I don't intend to start now." There are hints there of prime ministerial steel.

The final part of our conversation consists of a speech by Blair about his role in the worldwide changes in the Centre Left. He is at first chary of too close comparisons with Clinton. Then Riddell makes a disparaging remark about the American President's first-term record. The Labour leader almost jumps out of his chair. His cushion is pushed aside and his hands start clapping and pointing as though conducting *Frère Jacques* and dancing the cha-cha at the same time. "Well, he got re-elected. That seems pretty good to me," he says.



Labour sets golden target of putting Britain in the Olympic top ten

LABOUR set an ambitious new target for British sports stars yesterday and declared that the nation would shoot back into the Olympic medal league top ten within a decade (Jill Sherman writes).

Jack Cunningham claimed that, with the help of a Labour government, Britain would put behind its worst-ever performance at Atlanta (56th) and scoop up the medals as it did under Harold Wilson in the 1960s.

But it was under Liberal administrations, at the turn of the century, that Britons strode the world sporting

Olympic Games	Position in medal table	Party in power
1896 Athens	5th	Conservative
1900 Paris	3rd	Conservative
1904 St Louis	7th	Conservative
1908 London	1st	Liberal
1912 Stockholm	2nd	Liberal
1920 Antwerp	4th	Coalition
1924 Paris	4th	Labour
1928 Amsterdam	4th	Conservative
1932 Los Angeles	9th	Coalition
1936 Berlin	10th	Conservative
1948 London	12th	Labour
1952 Helsinki	18th	Conservative

stage. Only once has Britain actually topped the league. In 1908 in London, when Asquith was Prime Minister. Four years later at Stockholm,

Britain came in third when Asquith was still in charge. A quick tally of the Olympic successes of each political party puts the Liberals, rather

than Labour, way out ahead. Since 1896, Britain has competed at the Olympics 14 times under a Tory government, five times under Labour and

twice under the Liberals. The Tories have an average finishing position of 11.92, Labour 9.8 and the Liberals 2. But Dr Cunningham, the Shadow

Heritage Secretary, was determined to ensure that Labour now puts British athletes back on the map.

"I would hope that, with coherent commitment within a decade, we could see Britain back among the top ten most successful nations at the Olympics," he said.

Yesterday Labour's plans won backing from Tessa Sanderson, the javelin gold medalist; Shaun Edwards, the rugby league star; Brian Moore, the former England rugby union player; and Brendan Foster, an Olympic bronze medalist at 10,000m.

THE NEXT BEST THING TO AN

INTEREST FREE L.O.A.N

WITH THE EXCLUSIVE HFS CASHBACK BONUS

You can borrow any amount from **£5,000 to £50,000 for ANY PURPOSE** whatsoever and in 60 months reclaim up to 100% of all the interest you have paid!

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

BORROW SAY £7,000 OVER 60 MONTHS

60 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS OF £166.99

TOTAL REPAYMENTS (CAPITAL + INTEREST) £9,965.40

CLAIM YOUR CASHBACK OF £2,965.40

TOTAL NET COST £7,000

APR (FIXED FOR 5 YEARS AVAILABLE) 15.9%

AMOUNTS OVER £5,000 & REPAYMENTS UP TO 24 MONTHS AVAILABLE

CASHBACK SCHEMES ALSO APPLIES TO LOWER APRS

13.4% APR - GIVES YOU 50% INTEREST CASHBACK

12.4% APR - GIVES YOU 25% INTEREST CASHBACK

Immediate Decision

- Self Employed? - Without Accounts
- CCJs and Arrears usually no problem
- Even if you pay your loan off early you can still reclaim the interest you have paid after 60 months - No Fees

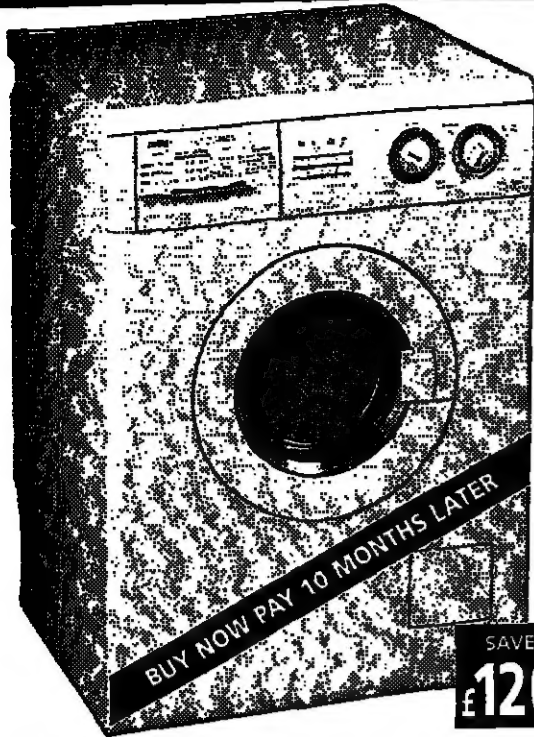
01625 511005

09am - 9pm 7 DAYS

LEADS BELOW £5,000 ARE AVAILABLE ON DIFFERENT TERMS

OXFORD HOUSE, OXFORD RD, NUNCELEIGH, CHESHIRE

AUTOWASHERS SAVE UP TO £120



ZANUSSI
1000 Spin Autowasher
■ Variable wash time.
■ Economy wash.
■ Half load button.
Model FL1085. Was £499.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£379.99

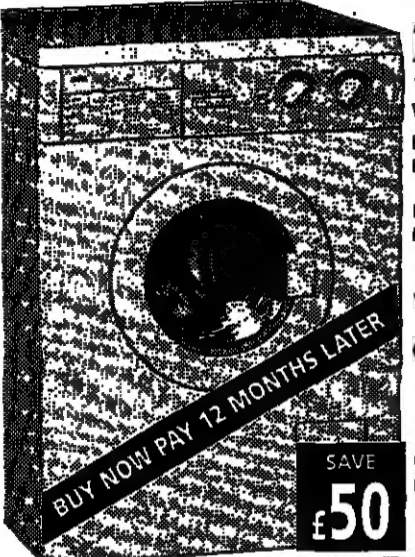
ZANUSSI
1200 Spin 'Jetsystem RS' Autowasher
■ Rinse sensor.
■ Variable spin speed.
■ Economy wash.
Model FJ1296. Was £589.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£499.99



ZANUSSI 1200 Spin Autowasher
■ Variable spin speed.
■ Economy wash.
Model FL1282. Was £519.99.
Trade in £489.99. BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER

WASHER DRYERS SAVE £50

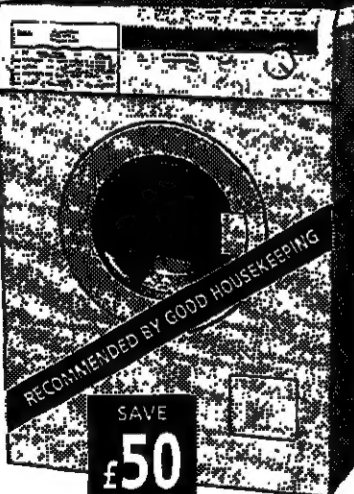


ZANUSSI
1000 Spin Washer Dryer
■ Economy wash.
■ Wash 'n' dry option.
■ Half load button.
■ 27 programme combinations.
Model WDT1085. Was £549.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£499.99

ZANUSSI
1200 Spin 'Jetsystem' Washer Dryer
■ Variable spin speed.
■ Wash 'n' dry option.
■ Super economy button.
Model WDU1294. Was £679.99.
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

CURRYS PRICE
£629.99



Currys

UP TO
SAVE £120
ON A RANGE OF
ZANUSSI

PLUS LAUNDRY & REFRIGERATION

FREE CHANNEL CROSSING TO FRANCE
FOR CAR + 4 PEOPLE ON
SELECTED SAILINGS WITH P&O
EUROPEAN FERRIES

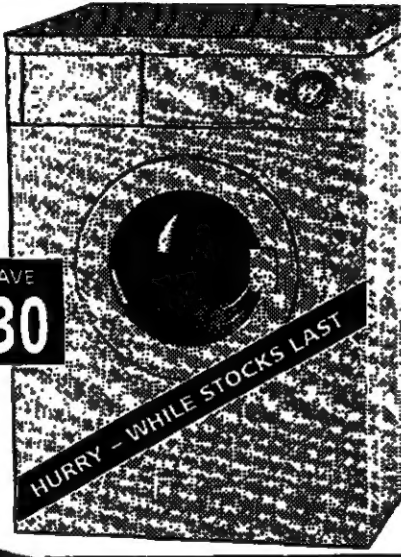
When you buy any cooker or refrigeration product over £360
Maximum 72 hour return trip from 1st May - 30th November 1997. Subject to availability.
Applicants must be 18 or over. Purchases must be made by 31st May 1997. Ask in-store for full details.

INTEREST FREE OPTION*
ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100
WHEN PURCHASED WITH A MASTERCARE COVERPLAN SERVICE AGREEMENT

TUMBLE DRYERS SAVE UP TO £110

ZANUSSI
11lb Tumble Dryer
2 temperature drying.
Model TD513. Was £179.99.

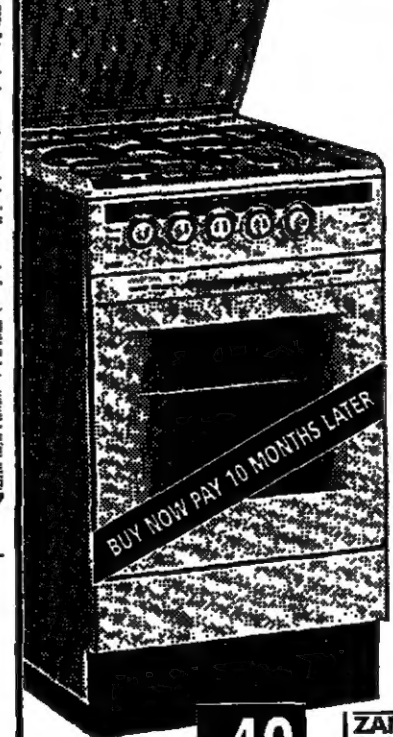
CURRYS PRICE
£149.99



ZANUSSI
11lb Condenser Dryer
■ Reverse tumble action.
■ Automatic cool down system.
■ Reversible door.
■ Needs no venting.
Model TC470. Was £409.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£299.99

COOKERS UP TO £60 TRADE-IN



ZANUSSI
50cm Slot-in Dual Fuel Cooker
■ Fan single electric oven and gas hob.
■ Thermo-glow fan electric oven.
■ Gas hob with 4 burners.
■ Glass oven door in 3 sizes.
Model ZCM5000WH. Price Excluding Trade-in £439.99.
LARGER STORES ONLY

TRADE-IN PRICE
£399.99

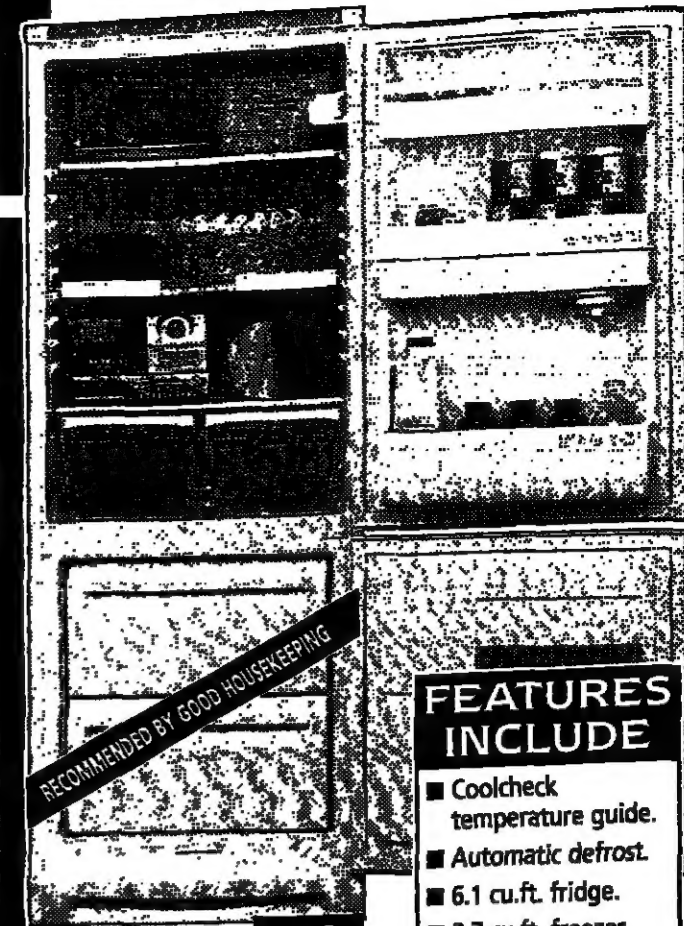
FRIDGES SAVE UP TO £80



ZANUSSI
5.0 cu.ft. Fridge
■ Adjustable thermostat.
■ Reversible door.
■ Coolcheck temperature guide.
Model ZFC5022. Was £239.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£159.99

FRIDGE FREEZERS SAVE UP TO £130



ZANUSSI
8.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
Model ZFC8127.
Was £419.99.
Also available in Almond.
BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER

FEATURES INCLUDE

- Coolcheck temperature guide.
- Automatic defrost.
- 6.1 cu.ft. fridge.
- 2.7 cu.ft. freezer.
- Fast freeze facility.
- Crisp 'n' Fresh salad crisper.

CURRYS PRICE
£329.99

ZANUSSI 6.4 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
Model ZFC6127.
Was £339.99.
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

CURRYS PRICE
£239.99

ZANUSSI 6.4 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer
Model ZFC6127.
Was £339.99.
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

CURRYS PRICE
£239.99



ZANUSSI
8.5 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer
■ Coolcheck temperature guide.
■ 6.3 cu.ft. frost free fridge.
■ 2.2 cu.ft. freezer.
Model ZFC8223. Was £489.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£379.99

FREEZERS SAVE UP TO £70



ZANUSSI
4.3 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
■ Adjustable thermostat.
■ Fast freeze facility.
■ Reversible door.
Model ZFC435. Was £299.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£229.99

ZANUSSI 1.7 cu.ft. Chest Freezer
Model ZFC175. Was £239.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£199.99

ZANUSSI 1.7 cu.ft. Chest Freezer
Model ZFC175. Was £239.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£199.99

DISHWASHERS SAVE £100



ZANUSSI
Full Size Dishwasher
■ Unique 'multirack' baskets.
■ Quickwash cycle.
Model DW907. Was £429.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£329.99

ZANUSSI
Full Size 'AquaSave' Dishwasher
■ Unique 'multirack' baskets.
■ 6 programmes.
■ Economy option.
Model DW917. Was £499.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£399.99



Currys
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORE



PREMIER SERVICE
OVER 500 HOME APPLIANCES AVAILABLE WITH 2-DAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED
EXTRA VALUE EXCLUSIVE MODELS
For exceptional value, look for the wide selection of superb models and offers exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.
INDEPENDENT REVIEWS
Look out for the products independently tested and reviewed.
TAKE IT HOME NOW
Most items are in stock ready to take away at once. We will be happy to carry your purchase to your car.

2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Choose AMPM. Plus professional installation service. Ask for details, prices and availability.
COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION
Combined delivery and installation on all free-standing gas and electric cookers (excludes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores). Installation by DSGI registered engineers.
SAME DAY IN-HOME SERVICE
Available for most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.
AWAY REPAIRING
IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP
Expert service available 7 days a week (same day wherever possible). All repairs guaranteed 3 months.

24-HOUR PC PLUS HOTLINE - 0800 506666
Phone our dedicated software line 7 days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute.
IN-STORE PC UPGRADE SERVICE
Make the most of Windows 95. RAM upgrade chips from £27.99. Installation only £18. Ask for details.
EASY WAYS TO PAY
Currys Premier Advantage Account offers instant credit and lets you take advantage of any credit offer in-store.
See in-store for details.
CURRYS DIRECT
For direct, doorstep delivery in 5 working days. Freephone 0800 304304 or fax 01442 88145 (9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri). Delivery charges from £2.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

NEW MASTERCARE Coverplan
INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100
Up to 5 years service support provided by expert engineers when you purchase a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement. PLUS Interest Free Option when purchased with any product over £100. Ask in-store for details.
LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT
Find a lower price for the same product, used, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN
Currys
bring you all this

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0181-200 0200 for details of your nearest store.
Written credit quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Central
Pensio
reach

Clarke
over sin

Please ch
you've he

BEFORE
only way to
into your
telephone
The Times
money
ing corp
ing no
paragrap
they were
words all
"In there
"Loving
Clarke, M
and other
radio yeste
what lay
and some
participate
words. Jete
womps
Heelme on
ask him.
This elect
some and
one, like a
admission.
ing now
head five we
Mr. Heelme
great letter
he was ask
ing of Labor

Garwick
to Miami
Daily from

CONTACT YOUR
TRAVEL AGENT

Central Office risks voters' condemnation over intensity of personal attacks on Labour leader

Pension gibe has Tories reaching for the vitriol

IF EVER evidence were needed that Tony Blair has got under the collective skin of the Tory party, yesterday afternoon's Conservative press conference was it. Never in recent history have such serious personal charges been thrown at an Opposition leader as in 20 minutes at Central Office when Mr Blair was accused of lying no fewer than eight times.

Neil Kinnock was accused of a lot, but never outright lying. Michael Foot was far too harmless to the Tories to be treated in that way. Campaign-hardened journalists listened with increasing fascination as the vitriol poured forth from Brian Mawhinney and Stephen Dorrell. The party chairman said that Mr Blair had been telling lies about pensions, the NHS and VAT on food in a "cynical pre-programmed attempt to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses".

Mr Dorrell said of the Labour leader: "The more he panics the more he lies." He had been telling "barefaced, despicable lies".

It was a big gamble for the Tories, but one they had to take. All the evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling. The Conservatives knew they would be accused of desperation. But the alternative, as Dr Mawhinney told

The evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling, but yesterday the abuse reached new depths of rancour. Philip Webster explains why

journalists, was to let Mr Blair's claims about the abolition of the state pension go unchallenged.

The day had begun with both sides hurling horror stories at each other. The Prime Minister predicted an emergency Labour Budget to raise taxes and the Labour leader claimed the Tories would increase VAT and abolish the state pension.

As the opening of the final week was marked by a violent outbreak of scare tactics, Mr Blair warned voters that they had a stark choice between a divided country or a new start.

Kenneth Clarke and Mr Major claimed that people could face an extra £640 tax hike to finance Labour's £12 billion spending "black hole". That was a smear, Mr Blair said.

Of Mr Blair's assertion that a Conservative government would rob millions of their state pensions, Mr Major said that was "absolutely scurrilous, absolutely scurrilous".

For a time it seemed that the campaign had ground to

an unpleasant snarling stalemate. But the afternoon's events lifted it to a new level of personal abuse and one which seems set to continue for its final days.

It was the supposition that the journalists were treating their own claims on the black hole and Labour claims on the pensions as equals that sent Tory strategists into orbit. They believe privately, with some justification, that while both may be impossible fully to sustain, the Labour charge that pensions are truly under threat cannot stand examination. It was probably a pity that they had chosen yesterday to refocus on the "black hole", a "been there, done that" story in the eyes of most papers.

With less than a week to polling, Tory frustration and anger at what they see as the injustice of Mr Blair sailing smoothly through the election boiled over.

There are hints from both sides that the pensions issue may be playing badly for the Conservatives. Given the widespread praise for the

initiative when it was unveiled just before the election, the Conservatives are outraged at what they see as Labour misrepresentation.

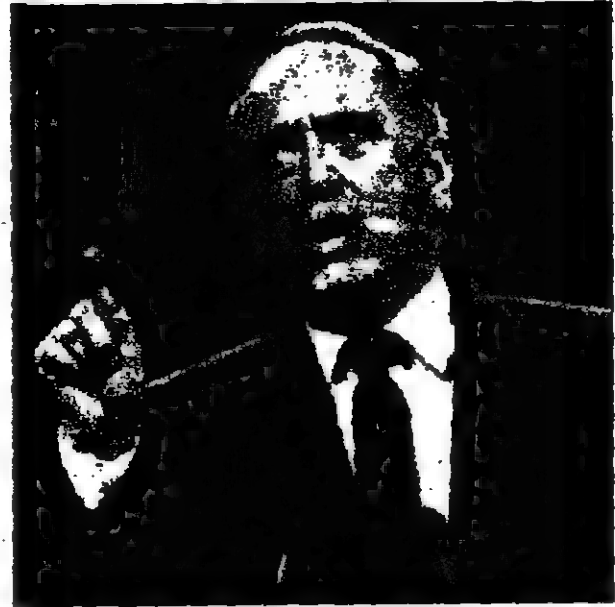
They decided the best form of defence was attack, acknowledging the risk that they were giving the issue an even higher profile. Labour were last night threatening to change their plans and campaign on it again today.

The other purpose behind yesterday's attack was the knowledge that "Blair the Movie", as last night's election broadcast about the Labour leader has been dubbed, was about to hit the screens.

Enough had been written about it in advance for Central Office to suspect that a flattering portrayal of the "raw Blair" was about to surface. The "lie" exercise was clearly an attempt to puncture him.

Earlier in the day Mr Blair, standing alone on the platform as he brought his new offensive to London, delivered an unscripted plea for voters not to underestimate the size of the choice before them next week and the implications of that choice.

The Tories have given notice that they still believe their best chance of a comeback is to wreck Mr Blair's credibility. It could be a nasty final week.



Stephen Dorrell, left, and Brian Mawhinney

Telling fact from fiction in battle over old-age pay

By Jill Sherman

TORY leaders yesterday rejected Labour charges about their pension scheme, under which young people in their early twenties will be given £9 a week rebate from their National Insurance contributions to build up their own private pension scheme.

The Government will also transfer the 5 per cent of earnings from Serps into new pension funds. Today's workers and pensioners would be unaffected by the scheme which would be phased in after 2001.

The charge by Tony Blair that the Tories intend to abolish the state pension is not strictly true. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, made clear when he announced his new Basic Pension Plus scheme that the basic state pension would be protected, and uprated in line with inflation.

Mr Lilley gave a commitment that the Government would guarantee the basic state pension if pensions funds did not produce an adequate income.

Labour claims that the plans "open the door to full privatisation of the state pension", is in fact that, if the pension funds go bust, there would be no money to guarantee even the basic state

pension. Mr Blair's accusation that a shortfall in funding has more credibility. The Tories have admitted that their scheme would cost £160 million in the first year, accumulating each year to a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

They have not spelt out where the money would come from in the short term. They have admitted that the £7 billion is net of the income that would be raised by scrapping tax relief on pension contributions, but they insist that the money will be raised by the equalisation of the pension age to 65, raising £15 billion by 2025.

Labour does not accept the £15 billion figure, saying this was never built into the pension plans and that there is no date on when that income would accrue. In the early stages it seems plausible that taxes might have to go up, or certainly not go down, or spending cut.

Mr Blair's charge that older people would be brought into the scheme is dubious and seems a tactic to play on ears of present pensioners. But the Tories have insisted that no one now in work would be affected.

Clarke defies rebels over single currency

By Philip Webster

KENNETH CLARKE defiantly raised the pro-European banner yesterday by insisting that John Major would have no choice but to stick to his "negotiate-and-decide" policy on the single currency if he won the election next year.

Mr Clarke, who expressed his support for the single currency, said that if he won the election next year, he would not change after the election. One candidate said that Mr Clarke's views had been the only serious stumbling block to the Tories fighting the election on a pledge to save the pound.

The Conservative manifesto holds to the agreed "wait-and-see" line, refusing to oppose Britain entering a single currency in advance of negotiations in which Mr Major wants to play a full role. On BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Mr Clarke was repeatedly asked about his own position in the

John Major was urged by one of Britain's biggest companies to ignore European demands to rule out entry into a single currency. During a visit to Siemens, the German multinational electronics group, Lewy Aichele, the company's director, said: "We want a strong unified Europe. We want economic and monetary union, of which we are a part." A spokesman also said the social chapter "doesn't make the slightest bit of difference because this is not a sweatshop".

In the light of the likely presence in the next Parliament of large numbers of MPs who were committed opponents of Britain joining a single currency,

In remarks that upset the Eurosceptics, Mr Clarke said: "I don't believe the Prime Minister can possibly form a government other than on the manifesto put forward by the Cabinet and put before the British people at the general election." Reminded that 233

Conservative candidates had said in their election addresses that they were against Britain joining a single currency, Mr Clarke said they had also given a declaration that they supported government policy. The Chancellor is understood to have strong private reservations about some aspects of the Tory campaign, particularly the use of the advertisement depicting Tony Blair sitting on the knee of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Mr Clarke said the question of the 233 candidates was "a matter for whipping in the next Parliament". He added: "I am in tune with the Conservative manifesto." He had been attending Council of Finance Ministers meetings on a monthly basis, he said. "I can only say I am extremely glad that I didn't go to these negotiations with the whole thing cut and dried as far as the British are concerned before we went there. I wouldn't have had the considerable influence on discussions that, with all modesty, I think I have."

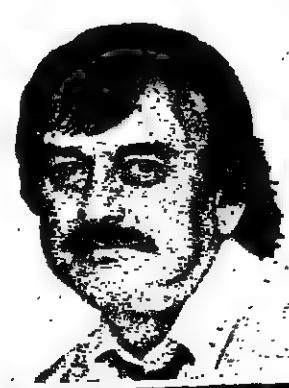
Please don't stop me if you've heard it all before

BEFORE new technology the only way to get these words into print would have been to telephone the copywriters at *The Times*, who in those days mostly consisted of men wearing carpet slippers and sucking on pipes. About five paragraphs into the dictation, they were liable to utter the words all reporters dreaded: "Is there much more of this?"

Listening to Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and other luminaries on the radio yesterday, I understood what lay behind the exasperated tones of the men who painstakingly took down my words. Indeed, I was sorely tempted to ring up Mr Heseltine on Talk Radio and ask him, yes, whether there was much more of this.

This election campaign is coming around for the second time, like a summer repeat on television. What we are hearing now has surely been heard five weeks ago.

Mr Heseltine worked up a great lather yesterday when he was asked about the leaking of Labour's campaign



PETER BARNARD

"war book", which he said contained the most disgraceful lies. But he did not sound convincing, any more than other attempts to whip up a drama sound convincing. This is a bloodless campaign and more of the pity.

Past elections have offered defining moments, real choices. At the end of the last long period of Tory rule, in 1964, Labour's "13 wasted years" campaign, together

with its promise of a modernist agenda, offered a theme that echoed down the airwaves and imbued the electorate with genuine excitement.

The current campaign is being fought in a circular arena and the armies are marching around its circumference, not towards each other but behind each other. Every Tory footprint is replicated by a Labour one in a political version of hopscotch: each side lands on the same squares, concerned only to avoid the cracks.

Every leading politician has appeared on every network trying to convince us of two things that ought to be mutually exclusive: they are different from their opponents but, don't worry, nothing much will change.

If this campaign were a radio network it would be Radio 4. The new Controller of that station, James Boyle, has promised change, but not very much change, and only introduced over several years. The putative new Controller of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair, could hardly have put it better.

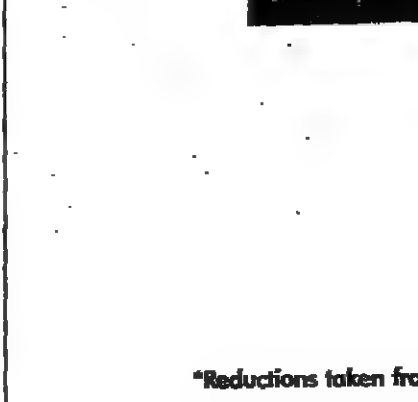
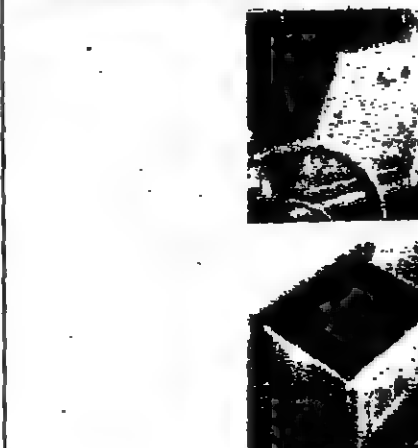
The comparison may sound a little unfair and it is unfair to Radio 4, which has lately carried a genuine debate between two men with very different agendas.

Unfortunately these two men were not John Major and Tony Blair, but the landowner Simon Pemberton and the smallholder Eddie Grundy. The most exciting set to since the election campaign started was not on the *Today* programme or Election Call, but *The Archers*.

Sharps can find extra room in any bedroom



If you want to find more room in your bedroom, talk to Sharps, the UK's No.1 fitted bedroom specialist. All 84 bedrooms styles and finishes are half price, plus this week only there's an extra £150 off. So there's never been a better time to maximise your bedroom storage space with Sharps. To find out more, visit your local Sharps showroom today.



<p>ALL BEDROOMS HALF PRICE! PLUS THIS WEEK ONLY AN EXTRA £150 OFF.</p>	<p>ALL BEDROOMS HALF PRICE! PLUS THIS WEEK ONLY AN EXTRA £150 OFF.</p>
--	--

FOR YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM PHONE FREE TODAY ON 0800 789 789

<p>ALL BEDROOMS HALF PRICE! PLUS THIS WEEK ONLY AN EXTRA £150 OFF.</p>	<p>ALL BEDROOMS HALF PRICE! PLUS THIS WEEK ONLY AN EXTRA £150 OFF.</p>
--	--

SHARPS bedrooms

A member of the Linsag Group

*Reductions taken from list prices. Minimum list price £1500. **Extra discounts apply to orders of £1500 or above.

Gatwick to Miami £99 Daily from Plus taxes, one way

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT LAKER AIRWAYS In a Glass of its own

Capacity limited. Flights must be taken by June 30th 1997. Special conditions apply. Subject to government approval.

Hamilton under strain as safety slips away

Charles Bremner sees Martin Bell's effect on his rival's campaign smile

DELIGHT flashed on the faces of Christine and Neil Hamilton when they were doing their shopping yesterday morning. Joy Austin, a local voter, had accosted them while the MPs' pugnacious wife, clad in a dazzling candy-striped blazer, was loading her trolley in a Knutsford supermarket. "We reckon you are ten out of ten," Mrs Austin said. "You have stood by your man."

The compliment was balm to the MPs' spouse. "Do you know, I was described as 'the wife from hell' on the front page of the *Daily Mirror*," she exclaimed. "Actually, I call her

Tatton's Tory machine. Mr Hamilton is struggling to keep up the campaign smile as he takes to the streets of Cheshire again. Two weeks since Mr Bell, a former BBC correspondent, howled up to Tatton with his daughter and friends to wage what seemed a quixotic cause, his campaign is making an impact and Mr Hamilton, possessor of a 22,000 majority in 1992, finds himself the defender of a marginal seat.

Polls are showing a Bell lead and bookmakers are offering odds of five to six on both candidates. Support for the white-suited man from the Beeb is visible in his white campaign ribbons and the stark white posters in gardens, windows and cars, emblazoned simply with the name Bell in black.

Still absorbing his crash course in politics, Mr Bell, 58, is coming to terms with the idea that he might actually win. "It's beginning to occur to me that a political career which I thought would last 48 hours is maybe going to last four or five years," he said shaking his head as if in sorrow at the prospect of victory.

Evidence of Bell energy is his beehive of a campaign office. Some 30 volunteers were stuffing envelopes there yesterday and others were tapping at computers under the eyes of "Bell's Belles", the team of young female workers headed by Kate Jones, his agent, and Melissa, his 23-year-old daughter, who is managing the campaign.

Ms Jones, who is Mr Bell's book editor from London, acknowledged her inexperience. "It's a massive strain," she said. But they had been getting good advice and were borne along by the enthusiasm of an army of local volunteers, she said.

One senior defector from the local Conservative organisation said the Bell campaign was "totally amateur" but that it did not matter because Mr Hamilton's standing, in his own party's opinion polls, was

"a disaster". As Mr Hamilton was finishing his shopping yesterday, Mr Bell, less diffident than before, was promising at a coffee morning in the true-blue town of Alderley Edge that he was "entirely motivated and ready to serve you".

He has just produced a manifesto, in which he declares himself on other issues than Mr Hamilton, voicing a mildly sceptical view of the EU and refusing to back a local campaign against a second runway at nearby Manchester airport.

These issues are side issues to a feud entirely about personality. Mr Bell, according to Mr Hamilton, is waging a "dishonest" campaign of "character assassination" against him.

"They are fighting the dirtiest campaign I have ever seen in this country. It is all lies," he told a Bell sympathiser in a car park, apparently winning him over.

The fact that the former

minister could spend eight minutes pleading his case with the constituent assailed to the desperate state of his campaign. His progress through the supermarket, elegantly suited out in tweed jacket and blue rosette, caused barely a flutter of interest. Weariness showed earlier when he appealed almost apologetically to a pensioners' gathering for their vote "in this rather odd election".

One of Mr Hamilton's charges is that the BBC man has refused his invitations to have it out with him in person. "I rang him up to fix a meeting but he never called back."

Mr Bell accuses his adversary of trying to deluge him in lawsuits and refusing the chance to take part in a debate this week.

Mr Hamilton said he declined because it included the eight other candidates, including such local "loonsies" as Miss Moneybags's Glamorous One Party and Lord Byro versus the Scallywag Tories.



Hamilton: turned safe seat into Tory marginal

my heavenly body," chipped in Mr Hamilton.

The moment in the vegetable aisle was relief for the parliamentary couple, whose 13 years in one of the safest Tory seats have fallen under the shadow of sleaze and are threatened by Martin Bell. The media circus has left town, giving the Hamiltons what they say is their first chance to buy their groceries again and even joke about their notorious involvement with the shop owned by Mohamed Al Fayed. Chipping with a pensioner, the MP spotted a Harrods receipt in her hand. "I don't like your bag," he said.

Despite the rock-like support of the loyalists who run



Bell: now realises that a political career he expected to last 48 hours may continue for the next five years

Ashdown starts whirlwind tour

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

PADDY Ashdown urged Liberal Democrats to "go for victory" last night as he prepared for a dramatic change of campaign pace that will take him to more than 30 of his party's key seats before polling day (Polly Newton writes). Speaking at a rally in Edinburgh, Mr Ashdown drew inspiration from William Gladstone's Midlothian campaign 118 years ago, and from Liberal Prime Minister David Lloyd George's call to "build a country fit for heroes".

Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats had already won the political arguments during the campaign. "In the next seven days, it is time to win the seats. It is time to go for victory."

Mr Ashdown said it was the 1879 campaign in Midlothian which brought the Liberals back to power for Gladstone's second government. Gladstone left Liverpool for Scotland on November 24, and even before he crossed the border had spoken at several

railway stations. Over the next three weeks, he made at least one speech a day, more often two or three. Once he addressed 20,000 people in Edinburgh.

Mr Ashdown told his audience: "Now, as then, the country is faced with a stark choice. Now, as then, it is time for a crusade."

Last night, in a direct appeal to voters, Mr Ashdown explained: "I mean that by sending a massive force of Liberal Democrat MPs to Westminster to fight for our schools and hospitals, it becomes your victory. A victory for your children and grandchildren. A victory for your schools and hospitals."

Mr Ashdown said that people had told him they feared a vote for the Liberal Democrats would be wasted. But, he said, anyone who wanted better health services and improvements to education would waste their vote by backing Labour or the Conservatives.



Sophie Solomon, left, and Sophie Harrison check Martin Bell's election materials at his campaign office

BUY A HOMEBASE FULLY FITTED KITCHEN.

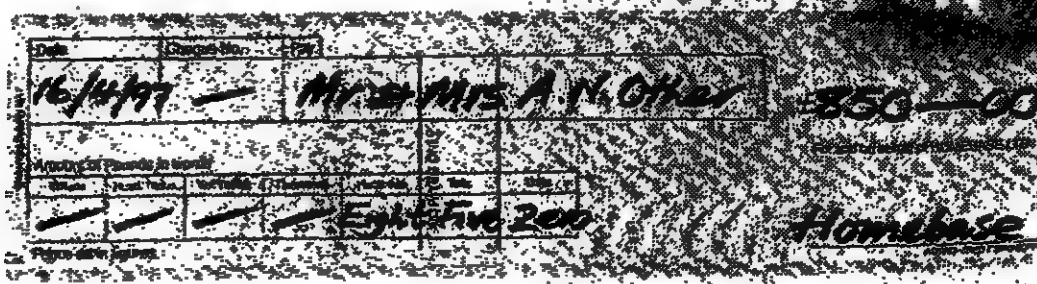


AND YOU COULD GET THIS MUCH MONEY BACK.

HOMEBASE LIMITED

Midland Bank plc

22 Standard Street, Birmingham B51 6LJ



000000 DB-0000* 00000000*

Now here's a simple, uncomplicated offer from Homebase.

We'll give you cash back when you buy a kitchen from our selected range of fully fitted kitchens.

SPEND	RECEIVE
£2,500-£3,499	£150 CASHBACK
£3,500-£4,499	£300 CASHBACK
£4,500-£7,499	£450 CASHBACK
£7,500 AND OVER	£850 CASHBACK

The table shows how much you get based on what you spend.

Homebase fitted kitchens include professional installation of all units and appliances in your home.*

BUY NOW - PAY LATER. NO DEPOSIT. PAY NOTHING FOR SIX MONTHS.†

HOMEBASE
SAINSBURY'S HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

FOR A FREE BROCHURE FREEPHONE 0800 300 321.

Please quote ref. TIM02C.

car insurance gone up?
you need help.

0800 11 22 33

help

Opening Times Monday - Thursday 9am - 6pm, Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm. Stores in Scotland open 9am - 6pm. Opening times may vary. Products and offers may vary in N. Ireland & Eire. * Subject to survey additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Cheque will be issued within 28 days of delivery (Pay in full or take credit in 6 months). Kitchen costing £5,000, pay in 36 monthly repayments of £215.27 (total amount repayable £7750.44 @ 24.9% APR variable). Offer applies to fully fitted kitchens only.

BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

18. Northern Ireland

Struggle to solve an all-party problem

Millions of British citizens have had their lives disrupted and headlines have been grabbed during this election campaign because of one unresolved political problem. That problem has, however, scarcely featured in the speeches of potential Prime Ministers and impinged at only the margins of political debate. The problem is Northern Ireland.

Although Labour and the Conservatives go into this election pledged to uphold the majority's wish to remain in the United Kingdom, neither party is seriously trying to secure representation there. The field is left to a variety of parties that exist only in Northern Ireland, and one, Sinn Féin, that organises throughout Ireland. Although all these parties have policies on everything from health to fish farming, the dividing line between them is not left and right, but the border. Unionists want to keep it, and the link with the rest of the UK, nationalists want it to go.

Since the Conservative victory in 1979 the search for a political solution, that is a constitutional dispensation for Northern Ireland which will end the violence, has dominated government policy. As well as trying to design an assembly, the Tories have tried to develop links with Dublin. The notable legacy of this approach was the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. Although all these initiatives were designed to undermine terrorism by showing that consti-

tutional politics could work, the republican campaign of violence has continued unabated.

The IRA has been fighting a "long war" in which it hoped to "sicken" the British State sufficiently to encourage withdrawal. Throughout the Eighties the IRA increasingly switched to attacking economically significant mainland targets. Bombs such as those at Harrods and that at the Baltic Exchange in the City in 1992 were intended to send tremors through the British establishment and encourage international pressure on the Government to come to an accommodation with republicans.

In the late Eighties, provoked by republican violence, and fearful that their position was undermined by Anglo-Irish initiatives, loyalists within Unionist communities began to intensify their own terror campaign, killing Catholics in republican areas to create an atmosphere of fear and an appetite for peace within those communities. These factors combined in the early Nineties with the coming to power of new Prime Ministers in the Republic of Ireland and in the United Kingdom to create an environment propitious for a new peace initiative.

The diplomatic efforts seemed to have worked when, in August 1994, the IRA declared a ceasefire. Soon after, in October, the loyalists followed suit. Northern Ireland was at peace for the first time in 25 years. It was not to last.



Paramilitary shootings are just one symptom of an illness for which a cure has yet to be found

Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could have lasted. Republicans expected the ceasefire to lead quickly to all-party talks and a timetable for British withdrawal. Loyalists expected the Union's future to be assured. Their expectations were irreconcilable.

When entry to talks was delayed by demands from Unionists that paramilitaries give up

weapons before dialogue could begin, republican frustration grew. A commission, set up by US Senator George Mitchell to examine how decommissioning might be reached to the satisfaction of all, suggested using elections to a peace forum as one bypass to talks. Republicans saw this not so much as a route round one obstacle as the erection of another. In February 1996, after 18 months, the IRA ended its ceasefire with a bomb in London's Docklands.

Since then the IRA has been responsible for a series of terrorist attacks, but hand-in-hand with this military strategy Sinn Féin leaders have pursued a political programme, arguing that the more votes the party gets the better placed it is to insist on entry to talks and also influence the IRA to call a ceasefire.

Republicans have said that talks in which they have not been involved have achieved little, and it is true that, despite agreement in some areas between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists, the attempt to agree a method of government for Northern Ireland acceptable to Unionists and na-

tionalists has become bogged down in procedural detail.

In an effort to break the deadlock Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested earlier this month that another IRA ceasefire could see Sinn Féin in talks by June. She was cheered for her words by Tory ministers and left exposed when the IRA appeared to respond by escalating its campaign; but her attempt to entice republicans into laying down their weapons was little different from past offers made by British and Irish ministers.

The tangled history of talks aside, Northern Ireland has, like the rest of the United Kingdom, enjoyed gently rising prosperity over the past 18 years. While violence has been a brake on investment, successive secretaries of state have intervened vigorously to attract and maintain employment.

Northern Ireland's level of unemployment, at about 11 per cent, is above the UK average but not perilously so. During the ceasefire, inward investment reached record levels, with £432 million pledged and 3,689 jobs

created. Since then, investment has slowed but not evaporated.

Northern Ireland, partly for security reasons and partly because of Troubles-related poverty, enjoys the highest level of per capita public spending within the UK, approximately one third higher than elsewhere. Housing has been improved, with the number of homes officially unfit for occupation cut by one third. Some of the UK's best social housing is in Northern Ireland and home ownership has risen from 52 to 66 per cent since 1979. Education remains predominantly segregated and selective, entrenching sectarian outlooks but yielding impressive academic results. The hospitals, for tragically obvious reasons, are some of Britain's finest.

Both main British political parties are committed to a joint approach to Northern Ireland. Although they differ on detail, Labour has so far refrained from explicit criticism of the Conservatives. Labour hopes that the Tories will extend it the same leeway if it gains office.

Tests will come early. July will see the high point of the Unionist marching season, the bitterly contested exercise in asserting Unionist identity by ceremonial walks along traditional routes. For the past two years, nationalists in Portadown have objected to a Protestant march through their housing estate. Last year the marchers were penned behind wire for four days before a campaign of wider civil disobedience culminated in them being allowed to march. When it did, nationalist objectors had to be beaten back.

The event was seen, as so many events are in Northern Ireland, to have great symbolic significance — proof that the British State would always bow to Unionist muscle. Others came to a more sombre conclusion: that violence, or the threat of violence, secures concessions in Northern Ireland. As long as that perception continues, then so will the Troubles. Moving away from that dismal vision will be a pressing task for the next government, not just for the people of Northern Ireland who have suffered so much, but also for the health of the entire United Kingdom.

SDLP

The Social Democratic and Labour Party is moderately nationalist and led by John Hume. It is dedicated to non-violence and aspires to Irish unity. Will consider an assembly but only in context of cross-border bodies. Refused pact with Sinn Féin to evade Unionist MPs but Hume believes in talks with Gerry Adams to secure IRA ceasefire. SDLP is pro-European and left of centre.

DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST

Ulster's most hardline Unionist party, led by the Rev Ian Paisley. It grew out of a split in Unionism in the Seventies and has its strongest following among urban presbyterians and small farmers. Broadly left-wing and populist on social issues, and fiercely Eurosceptic, the DUP is happy to consider power-sharing within Ulster but considers formal links with Dublin anathema.

SINN FEIN

A republican socialist party that believes in political and armed struggle to replace the regimes in London and Dublin. Its immediate goal is entry to all-party talks without preconditions as a prelude to negotiating the detaching of Ulster from the UK. Sinn Féin MPs would not sit in the Commons but would travel to Westminster to lobby. Broadly Marxist on social and economic issues.

ULSTER UNIONIST

Ulster's largest party, led by David Trimble. Committed to maintaining Ulster's position within the UK but keen to see a form of administrative devolution. Prepared to consider better relations with Dublin in a new Council of the British Isles. Trying hard to appear unsectarian by promoting Catholic members. Conservative on social and economic issues. Solidly Eurosceptic.

UK UNIONIST

A new Unionist party organised around the winner of the 1995 North Down by-election, Robert McCartney. Founded to offer a home for unambiguously pro-Union voters put off by the sectarian associations of the other major parties. Wants to see Ulster better integrated within the UK and elections contested on secular and socio-economic grounds. Left-wing on social and economic issues.

ALLIANCE PARTY

Moderate and non-sectarian party dedicated to power-sharing and dialogue and led by Lord Alderdice. Emerged from split in Unionism in the Seventies. Broadly supports the Union, but believes more must be done to make it acceptable to nationalists. Allied with the Lib Dems, the party takes a centrist position on most socio-economic issues and is enthusiastically pro-European.

CONSERVATIVES



The Ulster peace process absorbed a great deal of the energy of both the retiring Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and John Major. Painstaking negotiators, they tried to balance offence to Unionist and nationalist sensibilities. The IRA ceasefire brought benefits to Ulster and its collapse, as well as a dwindling majority, has inclined the Tories to a stance slightly more sympathetic to Unionist concerns. A re-elected Tory government would not, however, allow that significantly to impede moves that could secure a credible ceasefire. A Tory opposition might assume an even more Unionist posture.

LABOUR



Labour, under its Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has moved away from its traditional nationalist stance of Irish "unity by consent" and now supports bipartisan line that Ulster's future should be decided by its people alone and the Government intends only to defend the democratic majority's decision. Labour has been critical of the Government's indulgent approach to Orange marches, and is likely to be more pro-active in anti-discrimination policies. May also show its openness to talks after an IRA ceasefire with gestures to the republican community such as an apology for Bloody Sunday.

Clinically proven to cut clean through to muscular pain



New Traxam* Pain Relief Gel contains the powerful anti-inflammatory analgesic, feibinac. Widely prescribed by doctors to treat muscular aches, sprains, and backache.

NOW AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST
ACTIVE INGREDIENT FEIBINAC *TRADE MARK
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Priced with your business in mind

For the cost conscious, a Viglen Business PC represents outstanding value. The powerful Business PC150 costs just £849 (exc. VAT and delivery) and offers many essential business tools in a fast yet easy to use package. But there are many other reasons why a Viglen PC makes the perfect business partner. Combining state-of-the-art technology and manufactured to the highest possible standards in one of the most modern factories in the UK, Viglen business PCs are totally reliable. In an independent survey by PC Magazine, users voted Viglen top for system reliability. And every Viglen PC comes with lifetime technical telephone support to keep your business running smoothly. So you can see why nothing makes better economic sense than the Viglen Business PC150.

£849⁰⁰
exc. VAT & delivery

Business PC150

The Business PC150 provides performance and features suitable to most business applications. • Celeron® ES Executive (Compact Desktop), • Intel 150MHz Pentium® processor • 1GB EDO RAM • 256K Cache • 1.6GB Hard Drive • 12 Speed CD ROM • 1MB Fast PCI Graphics • Ports: 2 serial, 1 parallel, 1 PS/2 • 14" Colour Monitor • Keyboard • Microsoft® Mouse • Microsoft® Windows® 95 • Microsoft® Word®

UPGRADE OPTIONS
For competitive upgrade to Microsoft® Office 97 and high specification Business PC using the Intel Pentium® processor with 386T technology, please call.

For more information or to place your order call 0990 39 39 39

Sun - 1pm Weekdays 9am - 1pm Saturday. Calls charged at National Rate

fax 0181 758 7080

web <http://www.viglen.co.uk>

Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alport Lane, Alport, M45 1AA

BUY NOW, PAY LATER SCHEME AVAILABLE. CALL FOR DETAILS

*Example: Monthly payment scheme is available to private purchasers subject to status. Typical example of payment calculation of PC costing £849 exc. VAT (£1019.20 inc. VAT & 10% deposit of £101.92 required followed by 36 monthly payments of £242.41 (VAT = 17.9%) For business over £25000 inc. VAT, 0% APR applies to 1.5%. Additional payment protection insurance is available. Viglen is a licensed credit broker.

Viglen, Celeron and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Ltd. The Intel logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and Word is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Microsoft Word, Windows and Windows 95 are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged. Please contact us if you are going to print.

Scargill has found a rich seam of old Labour sentiment in South Wales, Valerie Elliott writes

King Arthur rides south for joust with turncoat

IT IS most unusual to see Arthur Scargill without loudhailer, placard or miners. It is even more unnerving to see him surrounded by grannies, gentle souls and pacifists who seem to make up the vanguard of his personal campaign against the Tory-turned-Labour Alan Howarth for Newport East.

The familiar scowl has been replaced by an almost permanent smile. For the astonishing news from the South Wales battleground is the reception being given to the king of coal. Rumour has it that one of the country's best-known Yorkshiremen is house-hunting in the area.

Even in Caldicot, a desirable commuter town for Bristol, Cardiff or Newport — it won the best kept town in Britain award two years ago and is miles from a coalpit — people were queuing up to shake his hand and to claim a Socialist Labour poster.

There is no doubt with Caldicot behaving in such a remarkable fashion that the



Tony Blair welcoming Alan Howarth at the House of Commons after his defection from the Tory party

gloves are truly off in Newport East between old and new Labour. Traditional Labour voters yesterday seemed to be distinctly unimpressed by the man they refer to as a Tory turncoat. Alan Howarth, former Tory minister, won the selection for the safe Labour seat vacated by Roy Hughes. It is claimed that Mr Hughes was offered a peerage to make way for the new Labour convert.

Don Jones, a gas technician, was typical of a stream of shoppers greeting Arthur Scargill yesterday. "I have no time for Tory traitors or any traitor," Donna Griffiths said. "We can't vote for the Labour man, he walked the road. If he can do it to the Tories he could do it to us."

Wynford Kerton, a former steelworker, said: "We can't have a Conservative here. You'd know what they would

call him in the pit Arthur — a blackleg."

The miners' leader and president of the Socialist Labour Party replied: "That's why I'm wearing red."

His smile was in danger of becoming a rather self-satisfied grin. But even Arthur Scargill was startled by the spontaneous displays of support. Indeed, he was clearly so overwhelmed that he broke an official vow not to speak to *The Times*. "This is exactly the reaction we are getting everywhere. It is pleasantly surprising but I knew feelings would be running high here."

He believes he is on very strong ground in bringing this personal battle to Newport. "If it wasn't for Howarth I wouldn't be here. I have no time for Tory defectors. Leopards never changed their spots. He's still a right-wing Tory. I was arrested twice here in the early Eighties trying to save the steelworks. What was Howarth doing? Voting to get rid of steel jobs here. He's also privatised water and gas and



Arthur Scargill in Caldicot, South Wales, yesterday during his personal crusade against Mr Howarth

he is in favour of privileged education."

Mr Howarth has lost no time in establishing a base in Newport East, where he is defending a 9,899 Labour majority.

Yesterday Patricia Con-

stant, his secretary, said: "We think it is going very well indeed. As for a debate with Mr Scargill, well, he has not been in touch with our office. We did have a request from the Tory David Evans for one date, but Alan was busy."

Mr Scargill is determined that voters in Newport East will know the record of the official Labour candidate. Mr Scargill's virulently anti-Conservative edition of *Tribune* may be a taste of what is to come. In the article

he said: "New Labour has become Thatcherism's last best hope... what choice does this leave millions of voters who utterly despise old Conservatives. Howarth included, for their many crimes over the last 18 years?"



Grant feels like an errant schoolboy

Millbank minders attacked by Grant

By DANIEL MCGROVER

BERNIE GRANT conceded that he feels as though he is being treated like a delinquent schoolboy by the head prefects at Millbank Tower, Labour's election HQ. "They would prefer I stay locked up at home in Tottenham but I tell them to get stuffed," Mr Grant, who is seeking re-election in the north London seat, said.

The minders at Millbank would have had apoplexy had they known that Bernie was meeting one of new Labour's women candidates to canvass at a Hare Krishna temple. "They probably thought I was going to teach her yoga," he chuckled.

The Krishna temple at Lechmore Heath was where the Beatles wrote *Sgt. Pepper* and which George Harrison donated to the Hindu community. Mr Grant hummed Beatles songs while he waited for Beth Kelly, the local candidate, and learnt from the monks that they have no truck with what you might expect would be their first choice: the Natural Law Party.

"Too flaky," Bimal Krishna Das, secretary of the temple, said. "We are like most other communities who are concerned about who will fund our schools." Mr Grant had supported the temple when locals derided it as a hippy drugs den that was blighting their property and engaged the religious community in a ten-year planning dispute.

Over lunch, Mr Grant promised funding for their school and help to reclaim Hindu art "looted by British museums". The lady from new Labour gulped, worried that her spell in the Blair sect might be over before it begins.

Gun lobby says don't vote Tory

Campaigners for a ban on the possession of handguns have urged the public not to vote Conservative. The Gun Control Network said that the Tories had the worst record on opposing a handgun ban and that only 6 per cent of their candidates had responded to a questionnaire on tighter firearms laws, compared with 30 per cent for Labour and Liberal Democrats, and 55 per cent of SNP and Plaid Cymru candidates.

It found that 29 per cent of Tories who responded supported a total ban, compared with 100 per cent of SNP, 97 per cent Labour, 93 per cent Plaid Cymru, and 86 per cent Liberal Democrats.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said later that the Tories had given the country some of the toughest gun laws in the world.

Changing sides

The daughter of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Tory Prime Minister 1963-64, has disclosed that she intends to vote Liberal Democrat. Lady Meriel Darby, 57, has been a lifelong Tory supporter but has decided to switch sides since her father's death 18 months ago. She said that Lib Dem policies on the environment had won her vote.

65-seat victory

A 65-seat majority for Labour has been predicted by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre at Plymouth University. Their forecast is based on a survey of 20,000 votes cast in 12 local government by-elections since March 17, when John Major asked for a dissolution of Parliament.

Lamont apology

Norman Lamont accepted a public apology over a report in *The Yorkshire Evening Press* that he was one of a number of MPs accused of taking "cash sweeteners". Mr Lamont, the Conservative candidate for Harrogate, also received an apology at the High Court from Harrogate Liberal Democrats, who used the story in a leaflet.

Action men

The manufacturers of Action Man have dressed the dolls to look like the leaders of the political parties. Two models of each doll have been made and will be auctioned as a set for charity. Apart from the three main party leaders there are versions of Screaming Lord Sutch and Sir James Goldsmith, and a Cindy doll Cherie Blair.

A profile of success.

THE LIFE, PENSIONS AND INVESTMENT industry has been through a period of unprecedented turmoil.

Yet, at Scottish Widows, that didn't stop us producing our second successive rise in new business figures. Or from positioning ourselves more strongly than ever.

In 1995 we added £1,005 million of new business across the life, pensions and investment markets - an increase of 44% on the previous year.

In 1996 we improved on that with £1,175 million of new money - up a further 17%.

Our vision is "To be recognised as the best high-quality provider of investment, pension and life assurance products". But we saw clearly that to achieve that decisive action was needed.

The result? Apart from the fact that we now look after over 2 million people, have assets under management of over 124 billion* and an extremely sound financial strength rating - ratified by both the leading rating agencies...

We've looked critically at our cost base and made savings equivalent to over £40 million per annum - in fact over one third of our costs, excluding commission. And we've taken steps to make sure things stay that way.

We were able to ensure that the real rate of return on investors' money was significant last year. On a 20 year endowment policy based on a premium of £50 a month, for example, the actual payout as a result of the bonus declaration represented a yield of 13%. This compares to a corresponding average rate of increase in the Retail Price Index of just 5.1%.

We're now working with other market leaders - Royal Bank of Scotland, Direct Line and Tesco - to increase business opportunities and decrease costs through economies of scale.

And, of course it's a fundamental part of our business to continue to offer an up to the moment range of services and products to our customers however they wish to buy - either through Independent Financial Advisers or direct.

So who reaps the dividends of a company determined to anticipate and respond to change, and with the will to push down costs and drive up service? Without shareholders, the benefits flow through in the form of higher bonus declarations and improved product pricing for our customers and members.

And our outlook for the future? We'll continue to work harder to offer better value products and services. For everyone's mutual benefit.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your money

If you'd like a copy of the Scottish Widows' Annual Review please call 0345 678910.

*AS AT 31.12.97. FOR YOUR PROTECTION YOUR CALLS TO SCOTTISH WIDOWS MAY BE RECORDED OR MONITORED. PLEASE NOTE THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE. ISSUED BY SCOTTISH WIDOWS LTD AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

ELECTION TRAIL	
Conservatives: Gillian Shephard, Peter Lilley in the West; Ian Lang, Kenneth Clarke in Scotland; Virginia Bottomley in the South; Stephen Dorrell, Michael Heseltine in the Midlands; Michael Portillo in the East; William Hague in Wales.	Harman, Glenda Jackson in the east Midlands; Frank Dobson in London.
Labour: Jack Straw in Birmingham; John Prescott in Scotland; Barbara Roche in the North; Chris Smith, Donald Dewar in the North West; Gavin Strang in Wales; Margaret Beckett, Robin Cook in the South East; Hamlet	Liberal Democrats: Paddy Ashdown in the South West.
	Referendum Party: Sir James Goldsmith in Maidstone.
	On screen
	Election broadcasts: Tory Party: ITV 6.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm, C4 11.05pm; British National Party: C5 5.25pm, BBC1 6.55pm, BBC2 11.30pm, C4 12.10am.

Russians have a bone to pick over dinosaur remains in Britain

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

THE normally respectable world of palaeontology has been split by a dispute between Russian and British scientists for custody of a unique collection of Jurassic-era dinosaur remains.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute yesterday accused Bristol University of borrowing nine samples of pterosaur flying reptiles, and refusing to return them to their Russian owners.

The row, which has echoes of a similar dispute in America over a collection of T-100 dinosaur remains now in Washington, has

led to accusations on both sides that scientists want to use the valuable dinosaur remains for financial profit.

Igor Novikov, the deputy director of the institute, said that the collection was loaned to Bristol in 1993 under a one-year study arrangement that was extended by another year. "At the end of this period we requested that the collection be returned to its home in Moscow, but Bristol has repeatedly ignored our numerous requests," he said. "It has become increasingly clear that the university wants to hold on to the collection as long as possible to maintain its funding from public and private grants." But Don

Corleto, the Bristol University spokesman, dismissed the allegations as nonsense. He said that the pterosaur specimens were borrowed from Moscow under a collaborative project sponsored by the Royal Society and with the co-operation of the Russians.

"We did borrow the specimens for scientific research in collaboration with the Russians, whose scientists are here in Bristol working on this project as I speak," he said. "The work has been extended but we expect it to be completed within a year. When the research is finished, everything will be returned to Russia." Dr David Unwin, a Royal

Society research fellow who set up the collaborative Anglo-Russian project, insisted that the agreement with Moscow was "open-ended", but hinted that the collection would be far better off remaining outside Russia for the time being.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute, once a prestigious part of the Soviet scientific establishment, has been hit by Russia's economic turmoil and valuable dinosaur remains have been stolen and sold on the black market. Three years ago, a 245-million-year-old dinosaur skull was stolen from the museum, sold to a German fossil collector for £500 and resurfaced in the State Museum for

Natural History in Stuttgart. It was returned to Moscow after Interpol traced its whereabouts. The collection in Bristol is particularly rare because few of the delicate bones of flying reptiles have been recovered intact.

Dr Unwin, who spent two years working in Moscow at the institute, said that the Stuttgart case was not isolated. He maintained that the illicit traffic in dinosaur fossils was still going on and that he has traced missing exhibits to collectors in Japan.

"They [the directors] make their money by selling their collections to rather nefarious individuals," Dr Unwin told

the *Moscow Times*. "For the last few years a very dirty trade has been going on, with the directors of the institute selling the museum's collections to fossil collectors."

Mr Novikov said that he was "deeply insulted" by the allegations. "Like any museum we have problems of funding and theft. When items go missing we report them to the police, and in one case the stolen property was returned."

For the time being, the institute in Moscow is not considering legal action to get its property back but will continue to appeal to the authorities in Bristol to return the collection.

Ex-Soviet states and China sign deal on frontier troop cuts

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia, China and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement in Moscow yesterday to limit troop levels in their border regions.

The deal is designed to create a zone of stability along the 4,500-mile former Sino-Soviet frontier. It marks a significant improvement in relations between China and its neighbours since the break-up of the Soviet Union brought an end to the rivalries between the world's biggest communist powers. Rap-approchement between Moscow and Beijing was already under way in the perestroika era of Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s, after a period of hostility that came to a head with border clashes in 1969.

At the signing ceremony in the Kremlin, after talks with President Jiang Zemin of China, President Yeltsin said that the agreement would boost mutual confidence between the five countries and he expressed the hope that other countries in the Asia-Pacific region would follow its example. The ceremony was also attended by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan.

The agreement sets a strict limit on the number of ground troops, tactical air force and anti-aircraft personnel deployed by all the countries

concerned in a 60-mile zone either side of China's border with the former Soviet republics. But it does not cover strategic air defence or rocket forces.

According to Russian defence sources, the accord provides for Russia and the Central Asian republics to keep 3,900 tanks in the border zone, all but 100 of these being provided by Russia. China would also be allowed the same number.

But the sources, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the agreement would not involve troop withdrawals on the Russian side, as the permitted numbers already exceeded the forces deployed in the region. China was also already well within the new quotas.

The agreement is seen as part of Moscow's efforts to forge closer links with its Asian neighbours to provide a counter-balance to Nato's expansion into Eastern Europe. But Russian and Chinese officials have emphasised that neither country is looking to rebuild the close Sino-Soviet alliance of the 1950s.

In a separate development, Mr Yeltsin yesterday appealed to young Russians to take a more active role in the country's political life. In his weekly radio address to the nation, the President, took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to task for failing to bring more young people into

the Government and use their energy and ideas. "We are simply afraid of promoting the young. Yes we are, Viktor Stepanovich. But don't worry; they are not trying to step into your shoes," he said.

President Yeltsin reminded his listeners that he was 66 and hoped to hand over to a younger person when he stepped down at the end of his term in three years' time.

One candidate widely tipped for the succession is Boris Nemtsov, the 37-year-old former Governor of Nizhny Novgorod, who was promoted by Mr Yeltsin to First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle last month. Yesterday he increased Mr Nemtsov's powers by appointing him Fuel and Energy Minister in addition to his other posts.

Alide move: Russia formally applied yesterday to Polish authorities for the extradition of a former adviser to President Yeltsin wanted on suspicion of corruption. Sergei Stankevich, a former Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was arrested in Warsaw last week during routine traffic control.

Mr Stankevich, who allegedly pocketed \$6 million in 1992 for authorising a classical concert and ballet in Red Square, fled to America in 1995. It was not clear what he was doing in Warsaw. Poland and Russia have a convention on judicial assistance. (AFP)



Presidents Akayev, left, Nazarbayev, Jiang Zemin, Yeltsin and Rakhmonov at the Kremlin yesterday

Kremlin spies break Cold War record

Frankfurt: There are more Russian spies operating in Germany now than during the Cold War, according to a government report unveiled in Bonn last night (Deborah Colcutt writes).

Germany attracts more agents than any other European country and experts estimate that the actual number of Russian moles "probably stretches into the thousands", said a senior counter-intelligence officer.

In a report by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, secret service officers concluded that Moscow's spies were operating more openly than ever before but their targets had changed since the fall of communism. "Before they were mainly engaged in observing and monitoring military developments, now

they are interested in German telecommunications technology and in the computers we use," said a spokesman.

"The spies are required to deliver both files and information so that their country can keep abreast of all the latest technological advances in the West." Further fields of interest are Nato's expansion to the east, Bonn's Eastern bloc policy and the Middle East peace process.

According to the report, President Yeltsin is said to have personally ordered the extra deployment of spies to Germany and other West European countries, though this has been strongly denied by Moscow. The report claims that Moscow is now at the centre of the spying operation and all agents are recruited, rigorously trained, dispatched and moni-

tored from there. German intelligence officers believe that personal contact is kept to a minimum and the moles receive their information and orders via coded short-wave radio messages. Highly sensitive material, money and support information are delivered to disguised hiding places.

The intelligence service has established that ethnic Germans living in Russia and high-ranking former KGB staff are favoured for operations in Germany. It has also identified a rise in the number of relatives of staff on Moscow's secret service team working at the Russian Embassy in Bonn and holding diplomatic posts here. Spies are infiltrating industry in the guise of trainees and managers in German businesses.

Protests as Serbs jail Bosnian Muslims

FROM REUTERS
IN SARAJEVO

A BOSNIAN SERB court jailed seven Bosnian Muslims yesterday after a murder trial which the international community labelled a "travesty" and a "farce".

Despite international criticism, the court in Zvornik imposed 20-year jail terms on three men accused of murdering four Serbs and sentenced the other four to one year each for illegal possession of firearms.

The court denied the defendants the right to be represented by lawyers from the Muslim-Croat Federation and appointed Serb lawyers who had just five minutes to present their defence. The court stopped short of passing death penalties as the prosecution had demanded.

The Muslims claimed to be survivors of wartime massacres in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. The trial failed to produce conclusive evidence that the seven were guilty of the crimes they were charged with, a UN spokesman said. Zagreb: A Croatian court found General Momcilo Perisic, the Yugoslav Army's Chief of Staff, guilty of war crimes yesterday for shelling a Croatian town in 1991 and sentenced him in absentia to 20 years' prison.

The general was one of 19 army officers tried in absentia this week. Five other co-officers were given 20 years in prison. The rest were given terms ranging from ten to 14 years. They were accused of shelling the coastal town of Zadar in 1991. (AFP)

Prison for anti-Jewish skinheads

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FOUR skinheads were yesterday imprisoned after being found guilty of desecrating tombs at a Jewish cemetery in southern France. Olivier Fimbery, 28, and Patrick Lacombe, 31, were jailed for two years, and Bertrand Nouvère, 29, and Yannick Garnier, 27, for 20 months.

The judgment in Marseilles closed one of the most highly charged affairs in recent French history. It has given rise to seven years of outrage, demonstrations and political intrigue.

When the Jewish community in Carpentras found the body of Felix Germon exhumed and 34 other tombs damaged at its local cemetery in May 1990, France reacted with horror.

The ghost of the Vichy regime, which collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War, hung over the country. The late President Mitterrand led several thousand on a protest march targeted at the extreme-right National Front.

Although two years is the maximum sentence for desecration under French law, members of the Jewish community were last night angry at the punishment given to the four defendants, saying it is a light sentence for one of the most shocking French crimes this decade.

Businessmen attack German parties for tax talks deadlock

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE leaders of the German Government and Opposition have been bitterly criticised by industrialists and economists for the collapse of cross-party talks on reforms to the complex tax system which may have to be delayed for a year.

The Christian Democrat and Free Democrat coalition and the opposition Social Democrats were accused of jeopardising economic recovery by political intransigence. The failure to reach agreement has prompted analysts to question Bonn's ability to continue borrowing to qualify for the start of economic and monetary union in 1999.

President Herzog made a rare political intervention yesterday and appealed to the



Herzog: appealed for cut in unemployment

politicians to help to reduce unemployment, currently at a postwar record 4.48 million.

"We must act now instead of just talking," he said, after the talks on a plan by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, to cut £11.5 billion in taxes.

The Chambers of Industry and Commerce called the breakdown in talks "a shock for the investment economy" and the daily business newspaper *Handelsblatt* said: "The going-on in Bonn will frighten off all foreign investors: it is proof again of the country's inability to reform itself." Dieter Vesper, of a leading German economic institute, said it was "poison for the economy" and cast doubt on the Government's ability to meet its 1997 growth forecast of 2.5 per cent.

Rome: Italy was yesterday smarting from a blow to its national pride after the European Commission's assessment that the Italian economy will fail to meet the criteria for membership of the single currency in 1999 (Richard Owen writes).

La Repubblica spoke of a "slap in the face by Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

Letters, page 21

Vatican's blessing on 'no sex' gays

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

HOMOSEXUALS can be good Roman Catholics and even candidates for sainthood, provided they repent and opt for "friendship" rather than engaging in sex, according to the Vatican.

The statement, which marks a softening in the Vatican line, came in an article by Jean Louis Brugues, a leading theologian, in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. "In the Vatican's terms this is an overture to lesbians and gays," said *La Repubblica*.

"It amounts to saying that, if they repent, refrain from making love, mortify the temptations of the flesh and pray, commit homosexuals will after all be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Vatican officials said homosexuality was still regarded by the hierarchy as a "disorder". But despite the conservative views of the Pope, there are signs of a liberal wind blowing. Last month a new Vatican handbook for priests said couples who admitted in the confessional they had used contraceptives should be treated with "mercy, discretion and respect".

Arcigay, the Italian gay and lesbian organisation, said the Vatican letter had little to offer and assumed that all homosexuals were promiscuous. Francesco Grillini, its leader, said it was "cruel to deny gays the right to love and be loved".



Meet Simon.

Simon would like better stock-market returns without taking more stock-market risks.

Simon likes a bit of excitement, but he's not very keen on risk. So unsurprisingly he's very interested in Midland's Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan. Like traditional PEPs, it's a way to benefit from stock-market growth without paying income or capital gains tax. Unlike traditional PEPs, however, Simon will get back all his initial investment plus a fixed return of 20% on his capital at the end of five years, even if the stock market falls. Which adds up to a better deal than his building society is likely to offer him. Simon described it as "having my cake and eating it" or something like that.

Minimum
20%
return

He called
0800 100 160
for his information pack
and application form.

He'll have to return it
quickly because the
offer is strictly limited.

For further details please complete the coupon and send to: Midland Bank plc, CFP, FREEPOST BS4335, Bristol, BS1 3YX.

Title Initials Surname
Address
Town County
Postcode Telephone
Are you a Midland customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No. If no, please fill in your sort code. ☐ Yes ☐ No.
Are you happy to receive information from Midland in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No.

Midland
The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conservative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liberal Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/>

They all say education is top of their agenda.

But they want your vote.

Our passion for education isn't confined to a manifesto. It's our job.

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND LECTURERS
To receive details of ATL's 'new deal' for education, please call 0171 930 6441.
<http://www.atl.org.uk>

ATL

McVeigh 'wanted to see blood on streets of US'

TIMOTHY McVEIGH blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City to show his hatred for the Government and see "blood flow on the streets of America", a Denver jury heard yesterday.

In his opening statement, Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecution lawyer, said: "The truck was there to impose the will of Timothy McVeigh on the rest of America and to do so... by murdering innocent men, women and children in hopes of seeing blood flow on the streets of America... they were in a building owned by a government that Timothy McVeigh so hated that with premeditated intent... he chose to take their innocent lives."

Mr Hartzler said he would later produce evidence that would enable the jury to "know the twisted motive behind this deadly offence."

The opening arguments in the trial of Mr McVeigh, 29, accused of the worst terrorist attack in American history, were to be followed by videotape of the explosion at 9.02am on April 19, 1995. Testimony by prosecution witnesses yesterday was expected to give detailed descriptions of injuries to more than 500 people sprayed by debris and post-mortem examinations carried out on the 168 dead, including 19 children.

Earlier, survivors and relatives of the dead were warned that testimony would include the most graphic and chilling evidence of the crime. Pres-

The prosecution hopes that presenting lurid details of the Oklahoma bombing will compensate for the gaps in its case. Tom Rhodes reports from Denver



McVeigh: withdrew to murky world of militias

sure on the prosecution to obtain the conviction of Mr McVeigh and Terry Nichols, 42, to be tried later, has mounted since the start of jury selection this month.

With a jury finally in place and evidence ready for presentation yesterday, opinion polls suggest that at least 83 per cent of Americans believe Mr McVeigh is guilty. But the burden on the prosecution has grown heavier by the day.

Months ago, the Govern-

ment decided it had no witness who could place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the bombing. Many local people say they saw more than one person and more than one yellow rental van, the vehicle used to transport 2,000lb of fertilizer to the site.

Last week, the Justice Department released a damning report about the FBI forensic laboratory which specifically criticised work done at the bombed Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma. The strategy of the Government is therefore to shock the jury with the weight of the crime before focusing on Mr McVeigh's motives.

Disaffected with the United States Army after the Gulf War and his failure to join the elite Green Berets, he withdrew into the murky world of militias and guns in Michigan and Arizona. Prosecution lawyers will claim that the bombing was in retaliation for the 50 adults and 25 children killed on the final day of the standoff between government agents and the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, two years to the day before the Oklahoma bombing.

They are also expected to allege that the attack was

modelled on a fictional incident described in a white supremacist novel, *The Turner Diaries*, a book Mr McVeigh allegedly sold at gun shows and a copy of which was found in his car when he was arrested outside Oklahoma City 90 minutes after the explosion.

It is believed that Jennifer McVeigh, the defendant's sister, will testify that her brother saw the book as a means of retaliation against the Government after Waco. In the coming weeks, Mr Hartzler and his team will also present the testimony of some 20,000 witnesses, the FBI studies of 500 hours of videotape and the conclusion of a 22-month investigation.

The physical evidence against Mr McVeigh, including explosive residue found on his clothes and fingerprints discovered on a receipt for the purchase of 40 50lb bags of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, appears overwhelming.

Coupled with the testimony of Michael Fortier, an army colleague who claims he "cared the joint" with Mr McVeigh in late 1994, and the publication of numerous alleged confessions by the defendant, the prosecution is hoping to defy defence allegations of a wider conspiracy and forensic incompetence by the FBI. Linda Jones, a British forensic and explosives expert who has worked on numerous IRA bombings, is expected to provide a critical independent analysis of the FBI data to prove its validity.

But the case for the prosecution cannot rest easily. The Government is seeking the death penalty against Mr McVeigh for the murders of four Secret Service Agents: a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and two Customs Service agents.

In recent months, Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has woven an intricate tapestry of conspiracy around the case, alleging the involvement of the IRA, the Iraqi Government and two white supremacist, Andreas Strassmeier, a German, and Dennis Mahon, former leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Mr Jones will claim that Mr McVeigh was only tangentially associated with the crime, if at all.



The 1,600-year-old carving of Buddha, which Afghan hardliners want to destroy

Buddhists condemn Taleban over threat to blow up statue

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE Buddhist world is outraged at a threat by Taleban, the extremist Islamic militia in Afghanistan, to blow up a colossal 1,600-year-old statue of the Buddha carved out of a sandstone cliff on the ancient Silk Route.

The statue, Afghanistan's greatest archaeological treasure, is protected by a rival Shia Muslim faction that controls the site in the Bamiyan Valley, at the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. A Taleban commander said that

if he captured the area he would destroy the 180ft monument, the world's tallest carving of the Buddha in a standing pose. Another smaller statue of the Buddha, carved about the same time, is also threatened.

The carvings were a tourist and pilgrimage site before the start of civil war in the 1970s. Chinese pilgrims reported as late as the 8th century an "abundance" of priests and temples in the Bamiyan Valley, before Islam became the dominant faith. The Bamiyan

site was constructed by missionaries and pilgrims during a revival of Buddhism in India in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Sri Lanka said destruction of the site would be a "treacherous act" from which the entire Buddhist world would suffer. The state-owned *Daily News* quoted Lakshman Jayakody, the Cultural and Religious Affairs Minister, as saying: "I hope sanity will prevail." Hindu organisations in India have also expressed shock.

Cult leader 'tried to halt gas attack'

Tokyo: The trial of Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo cult, veered into farce yesterday when he gave evidence in broken English and rambled about the outbreak of the Third World War (Robert Whymant writes).

Mr Asahara said that he tried to talk two disciples out of staging the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground on March 20, 1995, in which 12 people died.

Algerians killed

Paris: Muslim terrorists hacked to death 42 people, including 17 women and three babies, this week in the latest of a series of massacres in the village of Omaria, south of Algiers.

Sofia choice

Sofia: The anti-Communist coalition that triumphed in last week's election named its leader, Ivan Kostov, to be Prime Minister and to tackle Bulgaria's chronic economic and crime problems. (AP)

Transplant hope

Tokyo: The lower house of parliament passed a Bill that will let heart patients receive transplants. Until now, the only hope for people suffering potentially fatal conditions has been to go abroad. (AP)

Strikers injured

Lille: Four Renault workers were injured when strikers from the doomed Vilvoorde plant in Belgium clashed with police here. About 300 workers had come to see to Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor. (Reuters)

Belgian quizzed

Brussels: Belgian police were questioning a man over a series of murders in which the severed remains of up to six women, wrapped in bin bags, were found scattered in the southern city of Mons.

SS charges kept

Rome: A court refused a request by the city's Jews for charges against Erich Priebke, the former SS officer, to be changed to genocide over the massacre in 1944 of 335 civilians. (AP)

Judge in cowboy boots will keep tight rein on his court



Matsch: tyrannical

Denver: He sees himself as a hybrid of Napoleon and General Patton and has made it clear who will be the master of his Denver courtroom throughout the trials of those accused in America's worst act of terrorism (Tom Rhodes writes). Judge Richard Matsch, however, is also considered one of the best trial lawyers in the United States.

This tough but traditional Western lawman yesterday took centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh. A diminutive figure with bushy moustache peering from his pallid face, Mr Matsch, 67, has

MAN IN THE NEWS

made no secret of his intent since he first stalked into the wood-panelled court robed and wearing the cowboy boots that have become a personal trademark. He removed the Seal of the United States and all other symbols of government that might offer echoes of the Alfred Murrah building, devastated on April 19, 1995. He is one of only 13 out of 200 judges in America described as "tyrannical" in the *Almanac of the Federal Judiciary*.

BRITAIN SWINGS TO THE LEFT



There's a massive swing to Alliance & Leicester happening. For the nation's savers, the reasons are clear.

If you have a branch based notice account with the Nationwide then you should consider making the switch to Alliance & Leicester today. Our new Platinum Plus notice account offers higher interest rates on balances of £2,500 or more.

So if you are with the Nationwide, follow the trend and open a Platinum Plus account today. For details of your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch, call 0800 412 214.



ALLIANCE
LEICESTER

Terms and conditions: Source Bank's Credit. Comparison correct as at 23 April 1997, and is limited to rates available at that date alone. Comparison is on the basis that withdrawal terms and conditions vary from account to account, and exclude any foreign, and are for the best paying branch based UK high street notice accounts from the providers mentioned. Interest rates shown are for balances of £100,000. Interest rates quoted are variable and gross. For the Platinum Plus account withdrawal rates are allowed after 90 days' notice, or immediately subject to 90 days' loss of interest on the day of withdrawal. Minimum opening balance £2,500. Interest paid annually or monthly on request. Different interest rates apply to monthly interest. The interest rate bonus of 0.25% gross p.a. will be payable providing no withdrawal or transfer has been made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account being opened. The rate of 6.4% gross p.a. shown includes the bonus interest will be payable rest of money in at the rate shown by the relevant branch (currently 20%) or subject to the required minimum gross. Additional tax will be payable if you are a higher rate taxpayer. Interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for cheques where it is calculated from the fourth banking day following receipt (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays are not banking days). Maximum investment with Alliance & Leicester is £200,000 per individual. Full terms and conditions available on request. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London, W1T 4EQ. Company No: 2623715. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association.

THE SUNDAY TIMES WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS

BUT WILL IT BE EASY STREET OR DOWNING STREET?



READ LESLEY WHITE'S IN-DEPTH PROFILE OF JOHN MAJOR IN THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEKEND

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

LOW COST
SWIFTCALL

Aust
Swiftcall
20p

Ger
Swiftcall
16p

Japan
Swiftcall
30p

For further
destinations
Freeph

Our simple service

Swiftcall charges apply

Companions with 5

Presented by

Rogue states 'see cruise missile as weapon of choice'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CRUISE missiles could become the favourite weapon of rogue states, creating a "major security challenge" for the West, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, an authoritative London-based body, said yesterday.

It added that acquiring ballistic missiles was more difficult for developing countries because of strict international missile technology controls. The West was also devoting considerable resources to defending against the ballistic missile threat.

But, the institute said, land-attack cruise missiles were easier to develop and were not covered by the restrictions on the export of ballistic missile systems under the Missile Technology Control Regime established in 1987.

In its annual *Strategic Survey*, the institute said that only a dozen countries had land-attack cruise missiles approaching the quality of the American Tomahawk, because tight controls had prevented the spread of the highly accurate guidance equipment they previously required.

However, the report continued, "a stark new reality is changing the missile proliferation challenge: military breakthroughs are increasingly resulting from commercial rather than secret military research". New commercial technologies included cheap guidance devices based on the



Helms: chemical treaty would be "ineffective"

US satellite global-positioning system. The report said: "New guidance and navigation technology for cruise missiles offers substantially more accurate delivery and costs substantially less than far more complex, export-controlled, ballistic missile guidance systems."

Cruise missiles were also a "better platform for effective dispersal of chemical and biological agents". The killing area for a biological agent delivered by cruise missile could be "at least ten times greater than that delivered by a ballistic missile".

In Washington yesterday, Bob Dole unexpectedly joined President Clinton in his fight for Senate approval of a global treaty banning the use of poison gas. He had until last

year single-handedly blocked the treaty. He was at the time still leader of the Senate Republicans and preparing to challenge Mr Clinton for the presidency.

But now, in a hastily arranged appearance at the White House, Mr Dole said that he had changed his mind. A series of 28 steps taken to clarify the treaty had overcome his earlier concerns, although it was still not perfect, Mr Dole said. But he would have voted for it were he still in the Senate because there were now adequate safeguards to protect America's interests.

The White House hopes that Mr Dole's about-face will influence recalcitrant Republican senators who were to vote early today. At issue was the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed four years ago by 164 nations and already ratified by 74, including Britain. It takes effect next Tuesday.

The treaty's opponents in Washington were led by Jesse Helms, conservative chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said that with such rogue nations as Libya, North Korea and Iraq refusing to sign, the treaty would be ineffective in controlling those most likely to engage in chemical warfare.

Strategic Survey 1996/97, IISS, Oxford University Press, £25.



An Iraqi helicopter pilot operating in the no-fly zone en route to Saudi Arabia, in defiance of a US warning about punitive action, to pick up pilgrims from the haj

Ali's silence voices need for Parkinson's research funds

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MUHAMMAD ALI made a memorable plea on Capitol Hill without uttering a word.

The former world heavyweight boxing champion appeared before a House subcommittee to promote new research into Parkinson's disease, of which he is a victim.

Committee members invited him to speak. He leaned towards the microphone at the witness table, his hands trembling from his illness.

But his wife Loni, seated at his side, spoke instead. "The fact that I'm the one speaking to you and not Muhammad is one of the principal reasons we're here," she explained. Parkinson's

had robbed him of his ability to talk clearly. "I'm sure you all remember Muhammad's pre-Parkinson days when he moved millions with his vibrant voice and poetic expression," she said.

Ali, 55, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1984 but only in the past two years has he publicly supported research. Before that, he had not wanted to draw attention to his disability, said his wife, who has known him since they were growing up in Louisville, Kentucky. His mute half-hour in Congress drew more attention than hours of speeches and teams of reports. Once outside, he

mugged as of old for the cameras, signed autographs and delivered mock punches at fans with a wink and a grin. Ali's wife explained that he still talks to her all the time at home, but because of his disability he will not speak in public again. Though unwilling to talk, it was apparent he knew what going on around him and, as *The Washington Post* observed, he said everything he needed to without saying a word.

Ali was appearing in support of two Bills that would give the National Institutes for Health \$100 million (£61 million) for research on Parkinson's disease next year.

Fujimori basks in backing for Lima attack

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

OPINION polls showing huge public approval for the storming of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima confirmed the timely personal triumph for President Fujimori, which he will use to strengthen his political future.

The polls showed that 80 per cent of Peruvians backed the surprise military operation, which claimed the life of one hostage, the 14 Tupac Amaru guerrillas, who had occupied the residence, and two soldiers. His personal rating also shot up to 67 per cent. Two days before the assault, backing for Señor Fujimori tumbled to 38 per cent, its lowest level since his election in 1990.

Señor Fujimori is making the most of his renewed popularity. Yesterday he toured the slums of the capital and told the crowds: "You see I will protect you from the terrorist threat. Peru will not be at the mercy of terrorism and I mean to fight it with an iron fist. I will make this into a better and safer place to live."

Peruvian television yesterday also showed the President walking among the bodies of the slain rebels and having his picture taken standing by the bullet-riddled remains of Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas.

Japan, which had not been keen on a military solution, congratulated the President for his actions. Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, arrived in Lima yesterday and there was talk of Japan offering more aid to Peru.

Señor Fujimori is trying to make constitutional amendments that will allow for his re-election in 2000. He will almost certainly use this latest rise in popularity to generate support for the move.

However, there are growing worries over the "militarisation" of the Government and the President's increasing reliance on the backing of the military and his authoritarian style. "All decisions in Peru are made by Fujimori, who surrounds himself with sinister figures from the armed forces and intelligence services," said Ricardo Letts, an opposition politician. Human rights organisations say there are suspicions that the com-

mandos who raided the residence shot dead unarmed guerrillas.

"We want to know why it was necessary to kill them all and why the bodies are still in the hands of the military," said the spokesman of one group in Lima. "We have accounts which say that the two teenage women among the rebel group were shot and beaten as they tried to surrender."

The families of the dead rebels yesterday queued outside the Red Cross offices in Lima to demand that the bodies be handed over to them. "They killed the guerrillas like animals in a slaughterhouse. We want to give them a decent burial and yet we do not know what has happened to them," said the mother of one of the teenage rebels.

Guerrillas vow to take revenge

THE Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has issued a warning that it will carry out "reprisals" for the commando raid, in which 14 of its guerrillas died, and it has vowed to continue its armed struggle against social injustice in Peru (Gabriella Gamini writes).

"Our comrades gave their lives for what they believed and did not turn their guns on the hostages when the military invaded the Japanese residence," said Isaac Velazco, the rebels' spokesman in Germany. "We have suffered military defeat, but have shown that Peru is ruled by a cruel, dictatorial Government."

The rebel organisation has its own Internet page and is known to collect funds through offices set up in European cities. The Marxist guerrillas invaded the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima on December 17 to demand the release of 458 comrades held in Peruvian jails. Victor Campos Polay, the group's founder, is held in an underground cell in a naval base outside Lima.

Court in Hesse clears mother of murders

Frankfurt: A German mother, imprisoned 11 years ago for the murder of her two daughters, has been cleared on appeal by the state court in Hesse, which yesterday ruled there was insufficient evidence to send her back to jail (Deborah Collett writes).

Monika Boettcher, 39, known by her married name, Weimar, to the public which has avidly followed the case, fled to England last year when she was freed on appeal. Frau

Boettcher, who broke down in court yesterday, accuses her husband of killing their children because he was jealous about her affair with an American soldier.

The prosecution, which is due to appeal against the ruling, claims that she strangled the girls, aged five and seven, whose bodies were found near the family home in Hesse, because they stood in the way of her plans to marry her lover.



Boettcher: accused husband of killing

SWIFTCALL
0800 769 0022

SWIFTCALL VS BRITISH TELECOM

Australia Swiftcall 20p 49p	India Swiftcall 60p £1.20
Germany Swiftcall 16p 28p	Nigeria Swiftcall 70p £1.05
Japan Swiftcall 30p 77p	USA Swiftcall 10p 24p

Swiftcall prices apply at all times.

For further information on hundreds of other destinations and how to use, call us now on
Freephone 0800 769 0022

For more information on hundreds of other destinations and how to use, call us now on
Freephone 0800 769 0022

BRITAIN SWINGS BACK TO THE RIGHT



BRITANNIA
UP TO
6.0%
GROSS P.A.
NOTICE ACCOUNT

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
UP TO
6.4%
GROSS P.A.
NOTICE ACCOUNT

The swing is not saving its footing in Alliance & Leicester

If you have a branch-based notice account with the Britannia then you should consider making the switch to Alliance & Leicester today. Our new Platinum Plus notice account offers higher interest rates on balances of £2,500 or more.

So if you are with the Britannia, follow the trend and open a Platinum Plus account today. For details of your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch, call 0800 412 214.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

*Terms and conditions: *Source: Bank of England. Comparison correct as at 23 April 1997, and is limited to rates available on that date alone. Comparison is on the basis that withdrawal terms and conditions vary from account to account, and exclude any bonuses, and are for the first paying branch-based UK high street notice accounts from the providers referred to. Interest rates shown are for balances of £100,000. Interest rates quoted are variable and may change. For the Britannia Plus account withdrawal rates are offered after 90 days' notice, or immediately subject to 90 days' notice. Minimum opening balance £2,500. Interest paid annually or monthly on request. Different interest rates apply to monthly interest. The interest rate shown of 6.00% gross p.a. will be payable providing no withdrawals or transfers have been made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account being opened. The rate of 6.40% gross p.a. shown includes 5% bonus. Interest will be payable net of income tax at the rate determined by the Inland Revenue (currently 20%), or subject to the payment of income tax. Additional rates will be payable if you are a higher rate taxpayer. Interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for cheques where it is calculated from the fourth banking day following receipt (Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays are not banking days). Minimum investment with Alliance & Leicester is £500,000 per individual. Full terms and conditions available on request. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 40 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4EQ. Company No: 2283715. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the Bank of England's Prudential Supervision.

New phonecards available from all good newsagents. Distributors urgently required. CALL FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000 NOW.

Philip Howard



A tale of two pimpernels, or: the tumbrils of Calais

We seek him here, we seek him there.
Those Euros seek him everywhere.
Is he in heaven? — Is he in Hell?
That damned, elusive Europhil.

Citizen Santer of the Brussels Directorate sighed deeply and pushed his spectacles further down his prominent nose. He had done his best to smoke out just one of those beefy Poudings across the Channel who would admit to liking Santer's federal vision of a *République Européenne*. He had denounced his foes as "doom merchants", a *bon mot* that one of his charming English secretaries had given him. But *morbleu!* All that had happened was that their denunciation news sheets had sunk their teeth into his substantial *derrière*, telling him to keep his "hooter" out of their election, and "Bugger off, Belgie Beetroot!" Since then the doom merchants had multiplied as fast as CAP's teeth sown by the *bonnet rouge* or CAP of Liberty on set-aside land.

Santer could not put even his ubiquitous finger on the mysterious Scarlet Europhil, whose activities might make all the difference to his campaign. Every time he got close to him, Europhil changed his disguise from fan to phobe or grin to growl. Perhaps Europhil was one of those unshaven lorry-drivers queuing sullenly to break the French fishermen's blockade. But neither their language nor their primitive *croque-monsieurs* smoked on diesel fires beside the M20 seemed *communautaire*, intelligible or even edible. Santer shivered fastidiously. *Pardieu!* Europhil surely could not be that languid aristocrat Seigneur Cash, who made a convincing pose around the salons and studios of London as the most boring Parliamentarian since Simon de Montfort ran his first election campaign? How about M Urd in his green Loden coat, or M Ogg in his Bulgarian swineherd's hat? And who was the romantic Lady Marguerite, Europhil's lover and enemy, in this plot?

Santer's agents reported that Europhil was but a man madly, blindly, passionately in love, and as soon as Lady Marguerite's light footstep had died away within the House of Commons, he knelt down on the terrace steps, and in the very madness of his love he kissed the places where her small foot had trodden, and the stone balustrade where her handbag had rested last. Lady Marguerite was often referred to in Santer's directives as "the most intelligent woman in Europe". Though it has to be admitted that this claim is never substantiated by anything she does or says in the books.

The Scarlet Europhil, whether disguised as Sir William Cash or as Milord Tony Marlow in his gaudy costumes (*c'est incroyable mais c'est possible*), was described as "the perfect presentation of an English gentleman". But the directive's frequent reference to the Englishness of certain qualities sounds quite unEnglish.

The trouble with both Baroness Orzy and Citizen Santer was and is that they are distinctly unEnglish. They cannot help that, poor souls. But they do tend to get details wrong. Orzy did not see that the English were bored out of their bowlers with her waffle about the history of the French Revolution. What they wanted was more romance and adventure, more apparent *tricotuses* driving cars said to be full of BSE but actually conveying fleeing aristocrats, and ever more bogus high-life and historical references as cavalier as Ouida's.

For we English are *mordus* (fans) of romance, as can be judged from our passion for soaps and costume dramas. Citizen Santer does not understand that for any foreigner to appear to take sides in a general election does that side harm. The English like to tear each other, but turn on any outside their tribe who join in.

The English and French love each other, really. We visit each other's countries, even for *le shopping*. Our languages, history and culture are very close. But the ancient enmity of an old game. Chaucer and Shakespeare played it, and so did Molière and Voltaire. At least Baroness Orzy was Hungarian enough to turn down the single payment of £30 that she was offered by an English publisher for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. It may have faded, but her old romance has run and run. And so will the other defining Bulldog and Frog affair.



RED AND BLUE MAKE PURPLE...

People in search of a party

The Tories may lose Middle Britain to new Labour. But who then will speak for the poor and the public sector?

Could the Labour Party permanently supplant the Conservative Party in the affections of Middle Britain? And could the Tories swerve off towards what we may dub the Likud Tendency? And, if so, who will occupy the ground deserted by Labour? These may prove to be the great questions whose genesis we are witnessing, without knowing it, in the spring of 1997.

Being hearsay, the remark should not be attributed, but it rings true. A Labour candidate in a rock-solid London seat was reported to me as having snapped at a tiresome and disillusioned supporter: "I don't care what you think; you've nobody to vote for but me." The remark was tactless but true. I remember thinking (without voicing) much the same, when as a Conservative candidate I was tackled by unpleasantly right-wing voters in Derbyshire.

What nobody can deny — indeed the modernisers in Tony Blair's model army boast of it — is that the Labour leadership has organised for his tribe an exodus of which Moses himself would have been proud. Mr Blair has had luck — the waters of Mr Red Sea parted for him at a critical moment — but he has lacked neither judgment nor an overriding sense of direction. Focus groups and polling organisations his pillars of cloud and fire, he has held to his course, and on May 2 the young prophet looks likely to reach his land of milk and honey. In little more than a decade, Neil Kinnock and Mr Blair have shifted a whole great party from one place to another.

How do we describe this shift? It has lately become fashionable to abandon the vocabulary of class, and speak instead in terms of policies. We return to a pre-Mandarin view of the world, imagining Britain can no longer be looked at through the prism of class interest. The change suits Blairite theorists, for an idea or policy, once abandoned, is dead: over, finished: an ex-policy: a former idea.

But a class, abandoned, is still there. The question "When a party moves from old ground to new ground, who represents the old ground?" is not difficult for a Blairite. "It has ceased to exist. It is the past," he says — and it is notable how Mr Blair has acquired a habit for meeting substantive questions about policy with the answer, "We are not going back to the past."

I rather think, however, that although Marxism may be dead, Marxian class

analysis retains some force. Although many individuals are mobile, and class barriers by no means impenetrable, Britain at the end of the 20th century still contains huge and quite homogenous socio-economic groupings which do retain an inchoate sense of class interest. Travelling thousands of miles for *The Times* during this election campaign, parachuting into contrasting places peopled by electors in distinct and different walks of life, I do not believe that class, or class interest, is dead.

So, if new Labour have moved, where — in class terms — have they moved, and whom have they left behind? The first part of the answer is easy. They have moved to Middle Britain, a land inhabited by people on decent incomes who do not depend much on state welfare and live orderly lives. The Conservative Party, who used to represent much of this class, have grown increasingly unlikely, and it is perfectly possible that new Labour may put down roots here and stay, slowly strangling the Tories.

If — as seems to be the Tories' present lunatic, self-destructive instinct — the Conservative Party does not stay to fight its ground, but moves (clear blue water) and all that to islands where it is unchallenged, we shall see the Likud Tendency triumph in that party. It could establish itself securely with a permanent 20 per cent of the electorate composed of the rich, the mad, the bitter and the bigoted. The party could be happy there for an eternity, holding its ground, never winning outright, and wrecking other people's coalitions.

Thus are one great bloc — the middle — and another tenacious fringe — the Likud settlers — occupied, one way or another, by new Labour and the Conservative Party. Who is left behind? A class, or rather a coalition of classes, older than the century. First and most obviously, the poor. Pardon me for reminding you of this, but the poor do

still exist in Britain, and in rather large numbers. Perhaps as many as a quarter of the population come under the catch-all heading of "unpaid or underpaid, unemployed, uneducated, unwell or black" (though that is not to deny that some from all of these groups have escaped the deprivation that the catch-all implies).

This class — it includes the people who used to emigrate — though historically unrepresented in British politics, has found support in an unspoken coalition with a different class, little mentioned during this election: the public sector. Many in the public sector are not poor at all, but they all share an overwhelming class interest in the disbursement of state welfare. Though nominally among the victims of high taxation, they are also, through their careers, the recipients of it.

It is hard to believe that these two classes — the poor, and those who spend taxpayers' money — do not amount, in coalition, to two fifths of the population, perhaps more. Have they been abandoned by new Labour, and do they know it? The answer is "probably" and "probably not, yet".

Tony Blair would argue that it is possible to embrace Middle Britain without deserting these classes — to occupy, so to speak, both territories. But Gordon Brown will soon be telling him, if he does not already know, that this argument may be sustainable in opposition but cannot be sustained in government.

Margaret Thatcher knew that with terrifying certitude. Thatcherism was nothing if not a rallying of "our people". She knew that you had to choose, and chose. New Labour, too, will have to choose, and I believe (contrary to Conservative Central Office propaganda) that he is disposed to choose as Mrs Thatcher did.

Do the poor and their public sector

Matthew Parris

providers have any presentiment of this? So far, I suspect, only faintly. Watch the Labour turnout on the worst council estates next Thursday; watch the inroads that the Liberal Democrats may make into the affections of the public sector.

Canvassing in Skipton and Ripley in Yorkshire yesterday with the Tory candidate, David Curry, I heard that there is some early evidence of public sector workers switching to the Liberal Democrats because they are impressed by Paddy Ashdown's pledge to turn an extra penny on income tax to good account, in the education system. There must be scope for Liberal Democrats to capitalise on that, although the party will be hampered by its historical dissociation from organised Labour.

But these are early days, and only stirrings. Tony Blair's remarkable success at staving off the question is easily explained. First, most people want the Tories out. Secondly, the Labour Party is still called "the Labour Party" — isn't it? — and most Labour candidates in winnable seats are, or were, sitting Labour MPs. It is basically the same crew. This enables Mr Blair to boast that the party has changed while insinuating — Keir Hardie and all that — that it really hasn't. Thus he wins new support while retaining the support that he had.

For the moment. But within months that straddle will become the splits. At this point Mr Blair must deftly reposition one leg or the other. Tory propagandists will tell you that Middle Britain will be abandoned by new Labour. I incline to the other possibility. Conservative Central Office had better brace itself for the nightmare outcome: that Tony Blair really means it.

By the end of the century, if not before, new Labour may have supplanted the Tories and a very large number of people, composing two quite mobilisable classes, will be feeling distinctly unrepresented. Something will have to give.

Will it be a split in the Labour Party? Will it be a surge in Liberal Democrat support? Will the false dawn of Arthur Scargill's new party yield to something less risible? Will the Tory Likud, adding English nationalism to its armoury, begin to recruit among the hopeless, where dwell the SWP and the BNP? I do not know, but the seismology could prove as interesting as any preliminary tremor next Thursday could bring.

Party politics

DISAPPOINTMENT shrouds the glass-fronted offices of ITN in London, where an election-night party hosted by the tremendous anchorman Julia Somerville has been abandoned. She was to have presented some of ITN's poll day coverage from a celebrity-packed party in London, but the idea has been dropped amid allegations of insufficient interest from partygoers.

ITN admitted yesterday that the party would not be held, and that



Somerville — party-pooed

Somerville was no longer a key figure in the election night broadcast team. After being told that she would be required at the party, she has now been discharged from that responsibility.

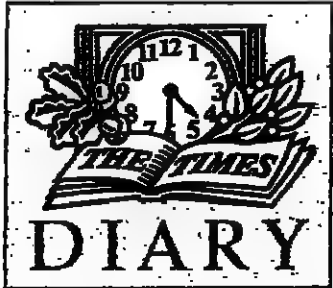
ITN said yesterday that election night would be presented by its political editor, Michael Brunson, and by Jonathan Dimbleby, Alastair Stewart and Sue Lawley. Somerville was not mentioned.

"There was an idea of having a party, but for programming reasons — and not for any other — it was decided not to go ahead with the project," said a spokesman for ITN. "The invitations were never sent out."

Beer we go

BODDINGTONS, the brewers, have had to scrap a £40,000 advertising campaign because Manchester United lost their European Cup semi-final. So confident were the brewers that United were going to win Wednesday's match that the adverts were ready to run in the morning's local newspapers.

Frantic eleven-hour calls were made to withdraw the advertise-



ments after United lost 1-0 to Borussia Dortmund at Old Trafford. The ads would have featured a pint of the frothy beer, with a Dortmund badge and the word "Creamed".

Green view?

ANITA RODDICK, the nannying founder of the Body Shop empire, has been campaigning to prevent a pub near her home in West Sussex from extending a car park. Her view of the Sussex Downs is likely to be disrupted by the plans of the George and Dragon at Houghton. "The introduction of a car park will destroy the pleasant rural outlook of my client's property," explains her agent Anthony Greenwood.

Can this be the same Anita Roddick who caused local outrage two years ago when she tried, and

was prevented by the local council, to build a laboratory, an office block and a car park on three acres of prime agricultural land at the Body Shop headquarters in Littlehampton, West Sussex?

Hope of glory

THE latest salvo in the race to succeed Cardinal Basil Hume, who under canon law must offer his resignation to the Vatican before his 75th birthday next year, comes from the super-smooth Roman Catholic Bishop in North London, the Right Rev Vincent Nichols.

Bishop Nichols, 51, whose benign looks and lustrous hair induce swoons down the aisle, does



Bishop Nichols: high aims

little to hide his ambition. He is said to have turned down the offer to succeed the late Derek Worlock as Archbishop of Liverpool last year with his eyes on the greater prize. Now he has written a book. Its title? *Promise of Future Glory*.

A bad trip

ADVICE to taxi drivers: beware men called Labor-Smith. Earlier this month, Ian Labor-Smith, 64, a British Army captain visiting New Zealand, hailed a taxi to his hotel. He then asked the driver to take him to Taupo, some 130 miles away, clocking up about £100 on his Visa card; then at Taupo, he told the driver to keep heading south, which he did, another 280 miles, almost to the southern tip of North Island.

Hereupon, the driver became concerned and turned back for Auckland. When the time came to pay the full fare, Captain Labor-Smith turned out his pockets and produced only £300, about a third of what he owed. A local court discharged him without conviction on a fraud charge. His lawyer pleaded that he wanted to return to Britain without a record, but it is not clear whether he will be required to pay the remaining amount. His tumbling driver will be doing only short trips from now on.



Tennant: New York bound

● Bad news for the reputation of swinging London: Stella Tennant, supermodel, has bought a flat in the West Village in New York. She plans to share it with her boyfriend, a French photographer. For all the huff and bother about London's move to the centre of the fashion world, New York, say Miss Tennant's colleagues, is still the place for the thoroughly modern mannequin.

P.H.S

Go and vote for a change

Tessa Blackstone

sees clear red water between the parties

With less than a week to the general election, those who tell the pollsters they don't know or don't care should relent and abandon their indifference. The first question to ask them is: "Do you want to wake up on May 2 and find that we have elected the same party for the fifth time and that Michael Howard, Douglas Hogg, Michael Portillo and Virginia Bottomley are still there? Wouldn't a new team with some new ideas be preferable to the same tired old lot?" The second question is: "Isn't it time for a change, not just to be refreshed by new faces, new voices, new approaches to the problems we face, but also in the interest of democracy?"

As recent years have shown beyond reasonable doubt, having the same people in power for too long corrupts; it leads to arrogance and a refusal to listen; to pretended rather than genuine consultation. There is no need for reminders about ministers and former ministers who took cash for questions, about the arms for Iraq scandal and the Scott report, or the extent to which ministers tried to cover up the effects of BSE. Others may have forgotten just how many times Conservative ministers have been found by the courts to be in breach of the law.

Some alienated and cynical voters may reply that, while accepting the case for changing the people in power in support of a healthy democracy, it will make little or no difference to policies and priorities. Therefore, as there is nothing to choose between the parties, they will not bother to go to the polling station. They are wrong. A simple audit shows that Labour has plenty of policies that will make a difference. The libel from the Right that Labour has no policies is claptrap. If anything, a Labour government will have difficulty in implementing the whole of its manifesto for change in a single term, which is why Mr Blair is right to work for two parliaments to put in place a programme which is more radical than some give him credit for.

Labour will modernise the constitution and reinvigorate our politics; the Tories won't. It will decentralise decision-making through devolution to Scotland and Wales; it will restore to local communities the right to exercise control over what happens in their own locality. The Tories will do nothing. Labour will tackle excessive government secrecy through a Freedom of Information Act, and stop inventing quangos which are not publicly accountable. To protect the rights of citizens it will incorporate into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights. Parliament will be reformed by getting rid of hereditary peers and making ministers more accountable in the House of Commons. The Conservatives will do none of this. They are happy with the system as it is. For those who are not happy with the way our democracy is seizing up, here is a programme of real change to vote for.

It doesn't stop there. To take a subject which hasn't been discussed much in the campaign, but which worries voters, Labour will promote community care to ensure that public services for frail and vulnerable people, including the elderly, the mentally ill and the disabled, are available to those that need them. The Conservative record on supporting those who can no longer look after themselves is dismal. Last year 40,000 elderly people had to sell their homes to pay for care in a residential home. A Royal Commission on long-term care for the elderly will be set up by Labour and a national long-term care charter will be introduced, setting out standards for local care. The elderly are the biggest users of the NHS. The Tories' internal market has led to a two-tier system in which people in the same street but with different GPs may not have the same access to their local hospital. Under Labour's local commissioning all GPs will be able to send their patients to the hospitals of their choice. Quite a few differences here, too.

Labour is committed to a welfare to work programme that starts with the young unemployed. The Conservatives are not. A windfall tax on the privatised utilities will pay for a programme to get a quarter of a million young people off the dole and, in some cases, out of trouble with the law. Without urgent action to provide these youngsters with skills and jobs, Britain will face a lost generation of marginalised, young adults with no stake in their own society. And the more "no-hopers" there are, the more likely it is some will turn to crime. In 1979 only one in 12 households had no one earning a wage. Today the figure is one in five. No wonder: there are a million fewer jobs than when Mr Major became Prime Minister. Labour will change the benefit system to remove the traps that discourage people from taking jobs, and provide a subsidy to employers to take on the long-term unemployed. Plenty of differences here, too.

For those who still are not sure about the differences, I could mention education, pensions, Europe, the environment, small businesses, research and development, the lottery and international aid. In all these areas there is clear red water between Labour and Conservative policies and the values that inform them. Voters have no excuse for ducking out on May 1. They should get out and vote, preferably for new policies, of which there are plenty, and for new people with a mandate to carry them out.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.



THE AWKWARD SQUAD

New Labour needs some old dissidents

Dissent has not been a feature of the well-oiled Mandelson machine in this contest. An iron discipline has descended upon a party that once prided itself on a sense of anarchy. To the intense irritation of Conservative Central Office, few Labour candidates have expressed dissenting sentiments in their election material. Tony Blair has achieved a supremacy over his colleagues that would be the envy of all his predecessors.

That combination of charm and steel will be an asset on polling day. It may prove to be a liability in office. A party out of power for so long would be wise to seek counsel within its own ranks before embarking on its programme. Mavericks, much mocked by party managers at present, should come into their own in the next House of Commons.

In that spirit, *The Times* would commend Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies. Unlike other figures whom we have sought to highlight, their electoral prospects hardly demand outside endorsement. They have served in Parliament for 80 years between them. At the last poll their combined majorities exceeded 43,000 votes. The residents of Birkenhead, Llanllinog, and Llanelli seem unlikely to reject them now. But in another sense they are an endangered species: unconventional men of intelligence, integrity, and undoubted independence.

Frank Field has been a figure of exceptional importance in the debate over the future of social security. That much can be seen by the respect accorded to his views by Peter Lilley throughout the past Parliament. At one stage Tony Blair seemed set to place reform of the welfare state at the heart of his agenda. His associates argued that only a Labour leader could embark on radical change just as Richard Nixon, the Cold War crusader, was the sole American President who could first visit Communist China.

In this campaign Mr Blair has abandoned radicalism in favour of scaremongering

soundbites about Tory plans to "privatise pensions". It appears Nixon is travelling to China on a very slow boat indeed. That only increases the need for Mr Field. The role that he plays over the next five years will be the best indication of Mr Blair's intentions for the welfare state. It is almost impossible to imagine that essential reform will take place if Mr Field remains on the backbenches.

Neither Tam Dalyell nor Denzil Davies will be offered ministerial portfolios. But both have sent warnings that should not be ignored. Mr Dalyell has opposed devolution with passion over two decades. He was the parent of the original West Lothian question. Twelve months ago he was the sole Labour MP north of the border to suggest that a Scottish Parliament should be subject to a referendum. That is now, of course, party policy. Constitutional change has the power to wreck a Blair premiership. His first twelve months might be lost in a struggle that much of the country deems irrelevant. He would do well to listen to Mr Dalyell.

The other issue with a similar explosive quality is Europe. Denzil Davies has emerged as the leading Eurosceptic within Labour ranks. His forceful dissection of the Maastricht treaty impressed all sides of the political spectrum. A former Treasury Minister, he has made a persuasive case that Labour's economic aspirations could be destroyed by incautious entry into a single currency. Much of that which Robin Cook fears, Mr Davies already articulates. His voice deserves the widest audience.

Mr Blair has asked for support on the basis that what he has done for his party he can do for the country. That is not an unreasonable comparison. But Whitehall and Westminster also require different techniques from those designed to achieve dominance of Walworth Road. He might not always appreciate the advice he receives from this awkward trio. That would be no reason not to solicit it.

PRIVATE LIVES

Independent education looks beyond the election

Education is the stated priority of all three political parties. Despite that it has not played the role that it might in this election. That is not for want of difference in detail. However, the contrast is far less stark than when Labour sought to abolish private schooling. All sides now endorse the principles of choice, quality, and accountability.

Against that backdrop, the annual conference of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) opened yesterday. Like teachers, schools in the fee-paying sector are represented by several different professional bodies. The ISA membership is drawn predominantly from smaller and less exclusive establishments. Inevitably, the prospect of a Labour government loomed large over both the official and unofficial agendas.

The trends already present in independent education are likely to matter more than specific proposals from Tony Blair. After the shock of recession, the numbers seeking admission are moving upwards. That increase would have been more pronounced had it not been for grant maintained schools, many of which provide results that match their fee-paying contemporaries.

The rise in overall numbers masks a quite dramatic shift against boarding schools. The sad announcement that Carmel College in Oxfordshire — the "Jewish Eton" — will shortly close, is part of the phenomena known as the 90-minute rule: the reluctance of parents to consider boarding institutions more than a 90-minute drive distant. Headmasters have found, sometimes to their horror, that the customer is king.

Similarly, the introduction of league tables has had a stark impact. Attractive buildings and snob value are no substitute

for solid A-level achievement. Schools which had become rather complacent, confident that their status would assure their future, have had little choice but to adapt or die.

It might be tempting to conclude that David Blunkett could not possibly have the impact that Margaret Thatcher has already managed. That would be true if it were not for Labour's proposal to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme. That subject really will dominate ISA deliberations this week and beyond. If implemented its effect would be two-fold. Weaker foundations, those that have not fully adjusted to the world of grant maintained schools, parental choice, and league tables, will find it difficult to replace their assisted places. Many will not be in business five years hence.

However, establishments with a reputation for academic excellence will suffer no financial hardship from the abolition of assisted places. There will be waves of wealthy families waiting in the wings to take such slots. What will be lost is diversity within those schools and opportunity for the children concerned. To a striking degree it will be the offspring from single parent families and ethnic minorities who suffer.

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. Yet the destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid. The private sphere would become the preserve of the rich. It is hard to reconcile that outcome with the admirable objectives for education that Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett have outlined. Independent education will remain alive and well whoever occupies Downing Street. Its character is far less certain.

ROYAL MAIL

Imitation is the best form of philately

George V was not a man renowned for his intellectual pursuits. But he shared with his subjects a passion for one of the most widespread and edifying of all hobbies: stamp-collecting. He spent hours poring over rare issues, freak watermarks and the vivid commemorative stamps that were beginning to make an appearance in Britain and the British Empire. George VI shared his father's enthusiasm, and bequeathed to the Queen a royal collection that was one of the finest in the world.

Hippophily rather than philately fills the Queen's free moments; but she still takes an interest in the collection, particularly on the rare occasions when it is exhibited. It is therefore something of a coup for Stamp 97, the Wembley showcase for this burgeoning hobby, to be lent her spectacular pages of commemorative, including artists' essays for the Coronation, Silver Jubilee and 1978 Coronation Jubilee issues.

Stamp-collecting is enjoying a renaissance after more than a decade in the doldrums. It was enormously popular in the 1950s, and a postwar baby boom generation probably has stamp-collecting to thank for painlessly inculcating obscure historical and geographical facts: which countries made up the Portuguese empire, where Danzig was, why Edward VIII was never crowned, why Weimar Germany overprinted stamps to the value of 10 billion marks and which countries call themselves Suomi and Helvetia.

Greed, however, ruined the market. Little

countries long ago discovered that gaudy pictures and frequent issues brought in ready cash. San Marino with triangular stamps, Hungary with its wildlife and idyllic Caribbean scenes of Lotus island beauty were joined by other ruthlessly commercial post offices. American collectors' agencies bought up venal post ministries in the Gulf and Africa, which happily put out regular "commemoratives" of film stars or footballers entirely unknown to the correspondents whose letters they were supposed to adorn. The Crown Agents have seen philately as a export bonanza for dependent territories: without stamps Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena would be in even worse shape than they already are.

With the Royal Mail now marking every conceivable patriotic occasion, including, next month, such bizarre achievements as Frankenstein, Dracula and other British tales of terror, bulging albums need more and more loose leaves. Speculators have moved into the market and auction houses discovered an enthusiasm for the hobby — until a Penny Black or Mauritius blue fails to deliver the promised bonanza. Now the baby-boomers, reaching retirement, are getting out their collections again. New issues abound. But stamp design rarely matches the classic plates in the Queen's collection, nor can garish photographs surpass the austere beauty of old engraved designs. Stamps should return to their roots: imitation is the best form of philately.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nationality and sovereignty at issue in election debate

From the Director of The Freedom Association

Sir, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, appears to agree with voters who object to "foreigners" like President Santer "telling us how to vote" (report, April 22).

The President of the European Commission must obviously warn against politicians who argue, even half-heartedly, for national independence. In any case, like it or not, Mr Santer shares with Mr Smith a common European citizenship: he is not a foreigner. When he retires he will be able to live and vote in Britain or even stand for office in our local and European elections.

Is Mr Smith, in this European Year against Racism, not going to campaign against Le Pen's French National Front? We cannot now ignore, as European citizens, the political direction taken by the constituent parts of our federal Europe. As "democratic" control shifts to a European Parliament laws in Britain will be made with contributions by French National Front members, even when domestic fascists fail to gain representation in our Westminster backwater.

Mr Smith and other regional politicians must accept that, thanks to their efforts, we are in a new era of politics, compelled to participate, no matter how helplessly, in a political structure that relegates our Parliament to impotence.

Yours faithfully, GERALD HARTUP, Director,

The Freedom Association, 35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, April 23.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, Mr Jacques Santer's so-called outburst against Europe's Eurosceptics (letter, April 23) puts some substance into the pre-election debate on Europe. I met him in Strasbourg just before he became President of the Commission and we ranged over the whole topic of Europe. I was struck by his sincerity and lack of arrogance.

I think Mr Santer was right when he said earlier that "Europe should try to do less, better". Although I believe

that Europe needs a common currency — and would need it even if the EU had never come into existence — for European trade, I am also convinced that we need currencies to match economic potential, whether at the national or regional levels. Money should not be a means of suppressing economic potential. The trouble occurs when governments create it for political reasons, where there is not economic potential.

Of course, if the EU is going to widen we need a reformed decision-making structure, but that is not such a bad thing if we are limiting the areas of European competence and introducing the principle of flexibility.

Groups of countries should be allowed to go ahead in the areas they wish to develop but the onus should be on them to prove that what they want to do is in no way detrimental to the vital interests of fellow member states.

Yours faithfully, JOHN COLEMAN, Editor, New European, 14-16 Carroun Road, SW8, April 23.

From Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRSE

Sir, I seem to recall Sir Edward Heath saying that history has nothing to tell us about the European Union. I am not sure that this is true. Napoleon tried to become the dictator of Europe. So did Bismarck and Hitler. Each time we had to step in.

The current proposal for Europe is to have an appointed Commission, a non-sovereign Parliament and a European bank run by non-elected people. This is a long way from democracy and looks dangerous.

The two countries with most experience of running a democracy are the United Kingdom and the United States: in both, to slow things and make sure that new legislation has deep attention, there is a second chamber. Surely a second chamber is equally essential for the proper governing of 500 million Europeans.

To me the priority would be to persuade the Europeans to alter the organisation to a safe and proven form before there is a move to a common

currency and a further loss of sovereignty.

An "English" American, Benjamin Franklin, was largely responsible for the brilliant United States Constitution. A modern Franklin could do the same for Europe.

Yours truly, CHRISTOPHER COCKERELL, 16 Prospect Place, Hythe, Southampton, April 23.

From Mr John M. Kennedy

Sir, The letter (April 19) from Mr Roy Hattersley, Lord Howe and Sir David Steel on behalf of the European Movement warning us of the changes to Britain outside Europe says it all.

The only reasons they put forward against leaving Europe are those stemming from Europe as a free-trade zone, increased business costs, foreign investment deterred, etc. Most people in Britain would, I am sure, fully support a free-trade zone and, indeed, probably think that was all they voted for in the last referendum on the Common Market, as it was then styled.

The letter makes no mention whatsoever of the political and social advantages that might stem from Britain being a part of a federal European Union. I wonder why?

Yours faithfully, JOHN KENNEDY, 9 Orme Court, W2, April 21.

From Mr Michael S. Bruce

Sir, Mr Hattersley and his distinguished colleagues are, of course, quite right: Britain should be in and leading Europe. Foolishly, the French and the Germans do not share their view. Europe is led without much regard for Britain's interests or wishes.

Years of negotiation under Tory and Labour governments have failed to alter this situation. What do Mr Hattersley and his friends propose to do about it?

Yours faithfully, M. S. BRUCE, 3 Wistow Road, Selby, Yorkshire, April 23.

Challenge to UK of EU presidency

From the Chairman of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, London

Sir, The next Government, of whichever party, will take over the presidency of the EU Council on January 1, 1998. This institute believes that the presidency will offer powerful opportunities to take a decisive lead on environmental protection in Europe.

Although there will be an inherited agenda largely predetermined by its predecessors and by detailed Commission proposals already on the table, the UK presidency will have the opportunity to influence the debate on several issues of major environmental significance. These include the reform of the structural and cohesion funds (due to expire in 1999) spent on developing selected regions, the reform of the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy, and enlargement of the EU to embrace countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

While consideration of the environmental implications of some of these issues is well developed, the debate on enlargement has hardly begun. The UK presidency could begin to bring into the open both the costs to the applicant countries, and to the EU budget, of their meeting modern environmental standards, and the opportunities that EU membership will bring in ensuring that environmental values are respected.

The key is early preparation. The conclusion of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) will be an immediate preoccupation but, from May 2, it will be equally important to start at once to build the foundations for a productive presidency. In this process the UK can give leadership by clearly projecting that the European Union's common identity rests, to an important extent, on its shared natural environment and a firm commitment to sustainable development.

Yours faithfully, CRANBROOK, Chairman, Institute for European Environmental Policy, London, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SW1, April 24.

Defence of choirs

From Mr Bernard Morrison

Sir, Richard Morrison's tongue-in-cheek piece ("Please don't watch, it spoils the fun", April 19) would hardly have reconciled Channel 5 to its viewing figures. Neither would it have amused cathedral organists to see their choirs, which this organisation has been formed to support, described as one of those "cherished cultural institutions" happily ignored by the entire population.

Whilst it is true that many still know little or nothing of our great cathedral choirs, others are at last becoming aware of these jewels in their midst. Though Evensong may occasionally be sparsely attended, overall the number of worshippers taking part is on the increase; indeed, it can sometimes be difficult to find a seat.

Choral services, however, are not meant to be concerts. They are not competing for an audience in the manner of a television channel. Their prime function is to offer fitting praise to the Almighty and to assist the congregation in its devotions.

Our cathedral choirs are arguably the one certain thing in national life of which we may feel justifiably proud.

Yours faithfully, B. L. HAUNCH (Secretary), Campaign for the Defence of the Traditional Cathedral Choir, 17 Wigmore Street, W1, April 19.

Counting them in

From Mr J. Arden-Davis, ACA

Sir, The seemingly endless numbers of accountants referred to by Mr J. M. Potter (letter, April 23) are, of course, marathon finishers in their own right, the only significant difference being that large quantities of pasta are consumed after completion of the accountancy exam marathon in the hunt for a gift to match the qualified accountant's prosperity.

As an aside, I understand that the correct distance for accountants running in the Marathon is whatever their clients would like it to be.

Yours faithfully, JAMES ARDEN-DAVIS, 79 Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E6, April 23.

Nesting habits

From Mr Phil R. Ridgway

Sir, We regularly have one or two pairs of house martins nesting in our stables. However, this year there is a group of three birds busily building a nest together.

Is this unusual? Should I just ignore them, seek the advice of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, or ask the clergy for guidance?

Yours sincerely, PHIL RIDGWAY, 27 Naverne Meadows, Woodbridge, Suffolk, April 23.

Abortion broadcast

From Mr Kevin Prendergast

Sir, It is puzzling indeed that the main television channels, which regularly transmit a diet of rape, sodomy, incest, robbery, murder, suicide and pornography, should have suddenly become conscious of their responsibilities with respect to public decency and good taste and deemed that a section of the election broadcast with footage showing an actual abortion should be banned (report, April 23).

Has there been a sudden change of heart or is this yet another example of the negative bias which appears to be so frequently shown on all matters, moral or religious?

Yours etc, KEVIN PRENDERGAST, Hawarden House, 126 Lache Lane, Chester, April 24.

From Mr Simon Bird

Sir, Although I do not think that shock is an appropriate means of convincing people in the debate about abortion, the decision by broadcasters not to screen parts of the Profile party's election broadcast serves to illustrate a profound unease about abortion.

If broadcasters, who are known for pushing at the bounds of decency in dramatic presentation and not being squeamish, have reached this conclusion about a real action performed on unborn children, what are their consciences telling them?

They could act, not by cutting scenes from a party political broadcast, but by furthering informed debate so that the acceptability of abortion will diminish in our culture.

Yours faithfully, SIMON BIRD, 71 Wilderness Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, April 24.

Underground accolade

From Mr A. R. Haydon

Sir, Belinda Archer calls London Underground "somewhat humourless" (Media, April 23) — which, no doubt, on many occasions it is, but her comment is occasioned by its refusal to display the recent advertisement containing the words "orgasm" and "foreplay".

London Underground — and I never thought I would find myself saying it — is clearly right to say that the poster "could... put people travelling with children in a difficult situation".

Belinda Archer complains of "a possibly worrying trend among media owners to become guardians of the nation's moral wellbeing". I think they have a duty, like all people of influence, to defend that very wellbeing.

Might there not be a possibly worrying trend among journalists to let the nation's moral wellbeing go hang?

Yours faithfully, A. R. HAYDON, The Old Hall Wing, 132 The Street, Rockland St Mary, Nr Norwich, Norfolk, April 24.

Support for US sanctions on Burma

From Mrs Glenys Kinnock, MEP for South Wales East (Socialist Group (Labour))

Sir, I welcome the US announcement of the imposition of sanctions against the Burmese military regime over the abuse of human rights in Burma (report, April 23). We must now look to the European countries to follow their lead, building on the decision on March 24 to withdraw Burma's preferential market access to the EU.

In recent months Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly urged Washington to impose economic sanctions. Attacks on National League for Democracy members have increased significantly and become more menacing.

There has been increasing concern for her safety and that of her supporters, who face intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and threats to their welfare and

that of their families, including the threat of torture and murder.

The US decision will mean a great deal to the opposition led by Daw Aung. Labour will put the protection and promotion of human rights at the centre of our foreign policy; in the party's national executive committee statement at last year's conference the British Government was called upon to exert whatever pressure it could in order to bring about an end to the repression and the restoration of full human and political rights in Burma. Tony Blair invited Daw Aung to address the Labour Party conference last October, but effective house arrest prevented her from attending.

Yours sincerely, GLENYS KINNOCK, Constituency office, 1 Bridge View, Cwmefinlloch, Newport, Gwent, April 23.

Healing of animals

From His Honour David Stinson

Sir, I hope that the RSPCA investigators looking into the use of prayer to heal a dog injured in a road accident (report, April 18) will note the Reverend J. Cameron Poddie's *The Forgotten Talent — God's Ministry of Healing* (Oldbourne, 1991).

In a chapter headed "All God's creatures", this Glasgow priest particularises three of a number of occasions when he ministered to sick dogs by the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus, leading to their healing. One such case was characterised by the dog-owner's vet as a "miracle".

Yours truly, DAVID STINSON, Barrack Row, Walsingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, April 18.

'Moral' democracy

From the Reverend J. D. Brown

Sir, The Bishop of Oxford (letter, April 15) is not being entirely fair to Simon Jenkins (article, April 12) who acknowledges the moral basis of democracy by quoting Alasdair MacIntyre's definition: "... the construction of local forms of community, within which civility and the intellectual and moral life can be sustained".

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to be applauded for exercising his role of moral leadership by initiating a national debate on public morality, which is not aimed at imposing a moral code but a means of arriving at a consensus on what moral values can rightfully be shared.

Yours sincerely, J. D. BROWN, 3 Manor Way, Elmer Sands, Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, April 21.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Too many cats

From Mr F. Paul Taylor

Sir, More cruelty to cats is not the only consequence of the increasing cat population (report, April 23).

The wildlife in our towns and villages is being devastated. Thrushes and blackbirds and all the smaller birds which used to nest in our hedges and shrubbery have long since been killed.

This spring the cats have turned their attention to the frogs in our pond which have given us so much delight and interest over the years. All have been mauled and not a single one is left.

If those who keep cats are really animal lovers they should give a thought to all the wildlife their pets destroy. No wonder our small birds are fast disappearing.

Yours faithfully, F. PAUL TAYLOR, 7 Kingsway, Frodsham, Cheshire, April 24.

Lottery grants

From the Chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission

Sir, The research published by the Directory of Social Change (report, April 15) appears to fail to distinguish between funding for national institutions and regional expenditure.

Of the United Kingdom's 19 national museums, for example, ten are in London. The welcome support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for many of these should be separated from regional calculations.

The fund's support throughout the United Kingdom has helped museums large and small to develop capital projects which increase public access and benefit tourism and local and regional economies.

Yours faithfully, JAMES JOLL, Chairman, Museums and Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, April 18.

OBITUARIES

DR ROBERT SIMPSON

Dr Robert Simpson, former Stormont MP and Minister of Community Relations in Northern Ireland, 1969-71, died on April 8 aged 73. He was born on July 3, 1923.

A MAN who embodied several apparent contradictions, Robert Simpson was a light-hearted and talkative Ulsterman; a moderate and tolerant Unionist politician; and a man who spent his whole life living and working in the same town — both as general practitioner and journalist — without a trace of parochialism. In the event, in the climate of the times, his community relations appointment presented him with an impossible task, although he did his best to soften the fierce antagonisms existing between the two religious communities.

He was born in Ballymena, Co Antrim, the son of a Presbyterian small farmer with 50 acres at Craigbilly. As the elder son he should have inherited the farm, but he had no penchant for handling the horses with which the farm's work was entirely done. He was educated at Ballymena Academy and Queen's University, Belfast, from which he qualified in medicine in 1946.

Simpson's political career began in 1953 when he became Member of

Parliament for Mid-Antrim at Stormont, the Parliament for Northern Ireland. He was to hold the constituency for nearly twenty years, through a time of great upheaval in the province. He was a Unionist who was subject to the party whip, but he had a certain independence of spirit. Where his views diverged from the official Unionist line on matters of principle, Simpson did not hesitate to take issue with his party publicly.

This was particularly notable in the one person, one vote campaign for local government elections, a notion which in Northern Ireland did not become law until 1969 (until then the owners of businesses had had a property vote in addition to their individual vote, a system which had been abolished in mainland Britain in 1948).

Throughout the long debate on the issue, Phelim O'Neill (later Lord Rathcavan) and Simpson were the only Unionist MPs to speak strongly and publicly in favour of one person, one vote — Simpson believed in it firmly as a matter of principle, not pragmatism.

It was Simpson's independence of mind and fairness which made him an ideal candidate for the new Ministry of Community Relations. On his appointment as Minister in 1969 he immediately chose to resign from the Orange and Ma-

sonic Orders because he saw membership of both as being incompatible with impartiality and conciliation. It was an unprecedented step for a Unionist MP. Community Relations appeared to be in fact was an impossible portfolio, as Simpson recognised in resigning in 1971. But in his two years in the office he worked hard to bridge the religious divide.

While he was Minister he convened a group of talented artists and academics to address the issue of community relations because he felt that the arts and media had a significant role to play. This group included Rowel Friers the cartoonist, Estyn Evans, George Thompson, David Hammond and the young Seamus Heaney.

Simpson and Heaney recognised that though Protestant and Catholic they had much in common; they were near-contemporaries brought up on small farms not thirty miles apart; they had both found that their inclinations and ambitions lay outside the farm, but had retained their closeness to the countryside in which they were brought up; and they both loved language. Simpson was aware throughout his life how much common ground there was between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. He often said "We are all Ulster people and we

must learn to live together, because we have nowhere else to go."

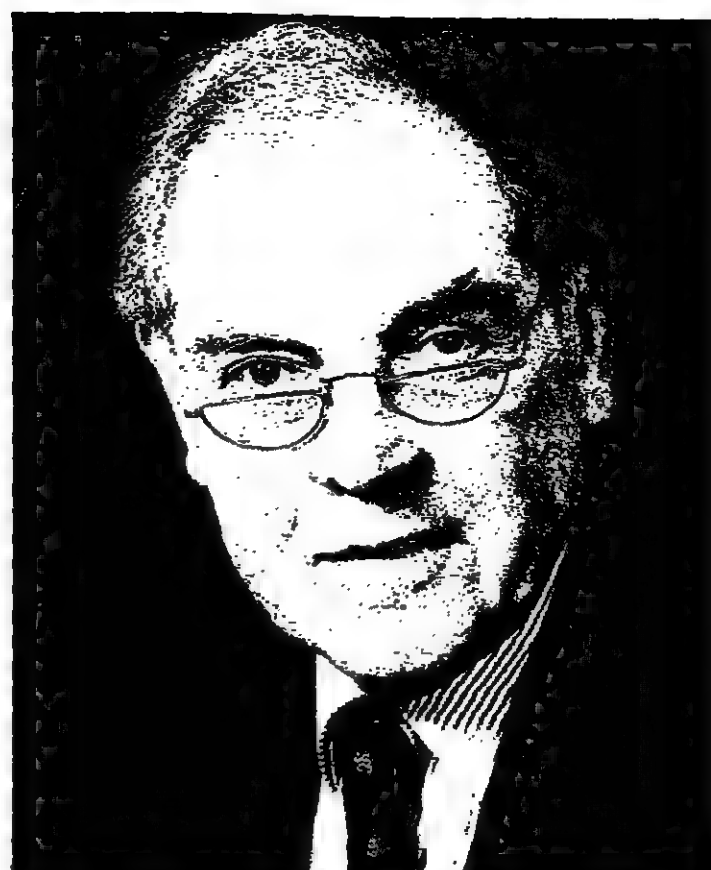
Simpson was a shrewd political analyst who was among the first to recognise that Bloody Sunday (London, 1972) was not merely another horrible event but a watershed in Ulster politics. But he felt that attempts to establish a moderate centre party, in the form of the Alliance Party, were doomed, and he was not surprised by the subsequent prorogation of Stormont. He could see no political solution to the problems of Northern Ireland and it was without regret that he quit politics in 1972, never again to take an active role.

In addition to his political career, Simpson was a doctor and a journalist. A general practitioner in Ballymena for nearly forty years, he loved his work and he was devoted to the interests of his patients. On his retirement from the National Health Service in 1986 he continued to work as an occupational health physician until his death. He was a prolific freelance journalist for most of his life, writing about travel, medicine and agriculture for the specialist, regional and national press. He wrote medical columns which were syndicated weekly in more than a hundred newspapers in the UK and abroad under the names of Dr John Barfoot and Dr David Blue.

Simpson had many interests. He travelled widely throughout his life, and was always planning his next trip. He created an admired garden at his Ballymena home, with a fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. He was passionate about trees and was a founder-member of the Irish Tree Society, together with Thomas Falcumham, the novelist Jennifer Johnston and others. In the last ten years of his life he also planted an arboretum at his home with more than 250 unusual species.

Music was another of his pleasures. This led to his involvement in the Ballymena Musical Festival, an annual competitive Feis in the well-established Ulster tradition. Simpson was an energetic and optimistic man with a gift for promoting team spirit, and he used these qualities for the benefit of the Feis, in both fund-raising and organisation. He was convinced that the festival had tremendous value as an institution in which Protestants and Catholics had participated and co-operated harmoniously for decades and was determined to do what he could to ensure its survival.

He married Dorothy Strawbridge in 1954. They were devoted companions. She survives him, as do their two sons and one daughter.



MICHAEL MACOUN

Michael Macoun, CMG, OBE, QPM, former colonial policeman and overseas police adviser, died on March 25 aged 82. He was born on November 27, 1914.

IN A career largely spent overseas, Michael Macoun policed the End of Empire in East Africa before, in retirement, being appointed Inspector-General of Police for the Dependent Territories. In his period in Africa he was head of the Ugandan police at the time of independence, and continued as Inspector-General for the first two years of self-rule.

As Inspector-General of Police in Dependent Territories, after 1965, he spent the next dozen years overseeing the work of police forces from Hong Kong to the Caribbean. In a highly colourful career in parts of the world where orthodox solutions to problems were not expected — and would seldom have worked — his flexible and fun-loving spirit was generally in its element.

Michael John Macoun was born in China, where his father was commissioner of Chinese Maritime Customs in Nanjing. With the country rent by civil war he was brought up in an atmosphere of unrest and witnessed a good deal of fighting between rival warlords.

When old enough, he was brought to England to go to school at Stowe; from there he read history at Oxford, after which he took a diploma in English language and literature at Munich University. It



was while there that he was introduced by Unity Midford to Hitler, while the latter was having lunch. Declining to give the Nazi salute, as was universally expected, he was nevertheless told by the Führer how glad he was to see Anglo-Saxon youth visiting the Third Reich. Macoun briefly worked in Budapest and when in Vienna helped Jewish friends smuggle their valuables out of the country.

In 1938 he joined the police and, after attending the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon, found himself sent to Tanganyika on the eve of the Second World War. A German colony from the 1880s

until the end of the First World War, Tanganyika still at that time had a population which was more German than British, and many of these German nationals were Nazi sympathisers. Sent to "purge the Nazi menace" Macoun found his German extremely useful in trying to ascertain who was likely to pose a threat and who was more likely to be a victim of Nazism.

Sympathisers with Nazism were sent to internment camps elsewhere in Africa, while non-Nazis (who were mainly Jews) were left to go free.

As the war progressed he found himself increasingly busy coping with floods of

Italian PoWs for whom camps had to be found in East Africa, and with a stream of Poles, released from imprisonment by the Russians and now making their way to North Africa via Persia and India.

Macoun stayed with the Tanganyika Police until 1958 with a two-year break in the middle of the war when he was stationed in Kenya with the Combined Services Security Bureau. After returning to his police duties in 1944 he was soon promoted to superintendent and by the mid-1950s had become acting commissioner of the Tanganyika Police.

In 1959 he was appointed Inspector-General of Police in Uganda. He saw earlier than most that independence could not be far off and that Ugandans needed to be trained and promoted within the force. Unlike some colonial officials, he was highly sympathetic towards African aspirations. When he took over in 1959 his force was officered entirely by whites; by independence day in 1962 it was substantially under African command.

Macoun continued as Inspector-General until 1964. Police work in Africa included quelling and containing revolts, strikes, army mutinies, cattle raiding, tribal conflicts, attempted coups and of course, normal police work. It also involved diplomacy and he mediated in several disputes between neighbouring Congo and Sudan. He excelled at these challenges.

His colonial police career over, Macoun returned to Britain and for the year 1965 was on the directing staff of

the Police College, Bramshill. But he was soon to be back in harness in something like his old sphere when, in 1967, after joining the Foreign Office he was appointed Inspector-General of Police for the Dependent Territories, at the same time serving as Overseas Police Adviser to the Foreign Secretary.

This involved much high-level diplomacy and work and a great deal of travel. He knew policemen and police forces from Hong Kong to the Falklands, Anguilla to Tonga. His ability to mix effortlessly with all ranks and races and his charm and wit served him well.

He retired from the Foreign Office in 1975 and took on a directorship of Control Risks, and various advisory assignments. He also assisted the Bodleian Library at Oxford where he worked collating colonial history materials. Last year he published his autobiography, *Wrong Place, Right Time: Policing the End of the Empire*.

Michael Macoun's sense of fun, his (sometimes risqué) humour, and the excellent nature of his company attracted many, especially younger people. He loved a party and a drink or two at the club or the pub. He liked to meet new people and fell into conversation with complete strangers, with ease. His steely blue eyes, the "Macoun stare", was attractive to many but could be frightening to those who contravened the law.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine, who came from a prominent Kenya pioneer family, and by two sons.

GORDON STEPHENSON

Professor Gordon Stephenson, CBE, architect and city planner, died on March 29 aged 88. He was born on June 6, 1908.

GORDON STEPHENSON was a key figure in town planning during the postwar years. As chief planner for the then newly established Ministry of Town and Country Planning, he was seconded to assist Sir Patrick Abercrombie on the Greater London Plan, as well as working on the designs for the New Town of Stevenage. For the last 40 years of his life, however, he was based in Perth, Australia, where he guided development not only of this city but also of Canberra, Sydney and Christchurch, New Zealand. He was appointed Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia.

Born in a suburb of Liverpool, Gordon Stephenson studied at Liverpool University's School of Architecture. He proved an outstanding student, sharing most of the prizes with his fellow student William (later Lord) Holford, and graduating with first-class honours in 1930. He then studied for two years in Paris — they were the best years of his education, he later said, and had included two months in the studios of Le Corbusier.

In 1932 he returned to Liverpool where he taught at the School of Architecture until 1936 when he became a Commonwealth Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Stephenson taught at the Architectural Association

School in London from 1938 but, with the outbreak of war, went to work with Holford, building ordnance factories. It was dull work but an excellent introduction to fast building.

In 1942 the Government was already setting up the machinery for postwar reconstruction. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning was established in 1942 with a planning technique division led by William Holford. Stephenson was his deputy and was to become his successor.



However, only a year or two after producing the plans for the New Town of Stevenage — for which, much later, he was appointed CBE in 1967 — Stephenson decided to leave the Ministry. He had been offered the post of Lever Professor of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool. While in this position he designed the new departmental building, revised the course, revived and edited the *Town Planning Review* and paid a visit to Australia to

initiate a regional plan for Perth, to which he decided to return.

But in 1953 he was invited to chair the department of city and regional planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He accepted. However, he was refused a visa by the US authorities.

Stephenson had visited the Soviet Union as a young man in the 1930s. He had also worked as secretary of the Liverpool committee for the relief of victims of German Fascism. This was enough in the McCarthy era to raise doubts about his anti-communist credentials.

So instead Stephenson remained in Perth until 1955, when he moved to Canada where he became Professor of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto. He returned to Perth, however, after five years, to become consultant architect and Foundation Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia. His autobiography *On a Human Scale: a Life in City Planning* was published in 1992. It provides a fascinating insider's view of his work. But of his several publications perhaps the most fascinating was the 1995 pamphlet *Compassionate Town Planning*. In 60 pages it gives a succinct history of planning in Britain from the Public Health Act of 1848 to the unleashing of "market forces" since 1979.

His wife, whom he met when he was a Commonwealth Fellow in America, predeceased him, dying in 1979, and he is survived by his three daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

FLATMATES London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

CANTERBURY required for villa in South of France near Cannes. Well trained, wanted, complete accommodation provided. Call 01424 60485.

FRANCE South. Help required, day and night, or part of day. Call 01424 60485.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

CONNECTIONS on flights & hotels to Europe, USA & most destinations. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

JETLINE

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

FARESAVERS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

CONNECTIONS on flights & hotels to Europe, USA & most destinations. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

AIRLINK

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

MONUMENT TRAVEL

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

RENTALS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION Charity 1000 and 10000. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

PRIVATE ADVERTISING

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

MONDAY & TUESDAY

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

PRIVATE ADVERTISING

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

MONDAY & TUESDAY

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

FLIGHTS London's Finest (Est 1970) Professional, clean, safe, secure, friendly, fun, free, fast, flatmates. Call 0171-589 5471.

WANDSWORTH A single room or two bedrooms flat in a Victorian house, close to the tube, in a quiet street. Call 0181 422 2200. ADTA 0088.

W1 Mingle! Great! Let's! Join! Call 0171-468 9188.

MARION WELCHMAN

Marion Welchman, MBE, co-founder of the British Dyslexia Association, died on April 19 aged 81. She was born on June 6, 1915.

IN THE early days of her quest to understand dyslexia, Marion Welchman was dismissed by many as "that fussy mother from Bath". But she was resolute. Her son, Howard, had been experiencing great difficulties in learning and she was determined to help him.

Dyslexia, then, was not widely recognised as it is today. It was largely through Marion Welchman's dedication and persistence that awareness of it was raised and the British Dyslexia Association founded. She was appointed MBE in 1992.

Marion Eves, as she was before her marriage, studied nursing at Cardiff Royal Infirmary before going on, during the Second World War, to work in Occupational Health at Westinghouse in Chippingham. There she met and married Denis Welchman.

Their son was dyslexic and she embarked on what was to become a lifelong quest to help him and those who suffered similar problems. Hearing of the Orton Society in America and the methods they advocated for teaching dyslexics, she arranged in 1969 for Sally Childs, a pioneering American teacher to come over to Britain. A specialised teacher training course was launched and many who attended it were to go on to become leading experts in the field. Living in Bath by this time,



she set up the first of many local associations for the study of dyslexia which led to the founding of the British Dyslexia Association in 1972. She travelled throughout the

world. She was a member of the Orton Society's council of advisers. She was invited to the first meeting of the Singapore Dyslexia Association and supported the foundation of a similar organisation for Europe. She organised the first international conference on dyslexia in Bath in 1989 and only last month was still taking an active interest in the fourth such conference.

Until the end of her life she remained an innovative and inspiring force in the field. Outside her work she was devoted to her family and friends — she was amusing and irreverent company. But in her spare time she was also a talented amateur silversmith and dressmaker.

Marion Welchman is survived by her two daughters and by her son.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP

At a guess 80,000 persons, more than half of them from the North of England, assembled at the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon to see Newcastle United and Barnsley play a drawn game — one goal all — in the Final of the Football Association Cup competition.

(It cannot be said that the football was either scientific or artistic. Except during the last quarter of an hour — when the Newcastle men, the majority of whom possess international caps, played up to their reputation and sustained their attack in a clever and resourceful style — the worst faults of modern professional football were glaringly obvious. The whistle was sounded every minute for free kicks, penalties for apparently deliberate breaches of the rules; the players on either side were constantly appealing with arms uplifted to the sky, as though they were members of a Greek chorus beseeching Zeus to hurl his thunderbolts, or at any rate send a rainstorm. Stoppages for minor injuries were far too frequent; it is not easy to understand why the game should be suspended by the referee merely because a large, able-bodied man is winded or gets a trifling back. Really the cocking of the modern professional is becoming ridiculous. Again, the ball was

ON THIS DAY

April 25, 1930

The FA Cup Final in 1930 resulted in a draw between Newcastle United and Barnsley, but the comments on London by some of the Barnsleyites after the game were both lively and frank. "There's not a happy face in the streets... Why can't they be neighbourly?"

perpetually in the air, even the half-backs kicking too hard and too high in a manner which, if they had been playing for a Public School, would have caused them to be severely rebuked by their captain or even dropped for a match or two. Partly because of the haphazard kicking of the half-backs, but chiefly because of their own inability either to pass accurately or try a little dribbling, both sets of forwards were singularly ineffectual during the greater part of the game. From beginning to end there were not more than four or five hard and well-

THE EXODUS

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky
finds French comfort
for Eurosceptics
PAGE 31



EDUCATION
Are our young
musicians losing a
chance to learn?
PAGES 41



SPORT
United reflect on
net losses in
European Cup
PAGES 43-52

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

Tunnel's refinance proposals attacked

By Jason Nisbet

EUROTUNNEL was given a warning yesterday that its £2.2 billion refinancing plans do not go far enough.

The proposals, which Eurotunnel said were back on track despite revealing full-year losses of £685 million, would cut its £8.7 billion of debt by £1.1 billion immediately, and by another £1.1 billion in six years' time.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS Securities, said: "The proposals are not sufficiently robust to last. Shareholders could be looking at another tranche of refinancing within a few years."

The updated plans, which are dependent on Eurotunnel meeting the turnover targets it set before last November's fire, have been agreed by the steering group of six banks but will not go before the £225-million banking syndicate until October. Three shareholder groups in France are planning to block the proposals.

However, Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, said he was hoping to win investors round by securing an extension to Eurotunnel's licence to operate the tunnel, which has 65 years to run.

Yesterday's figures showed turnover for 1996 up 71 per cent, to £483 million. The operating loss was cut from £200 million to £33 million and the pre-tax loss from £924 million to £685 million.

Analysts were concerned about the first quarter of 1997 when turnover dropped from £100 million to £75.5 million, which, despite the fire, was below expectations.

Traffic figures for Le Chunnel Tourist, which carries cars, have recovered to 80 per cent of their pre-fire level but analysts said the test would be the reopening of the tunnel for freight in mid-June.

Best for shareholders, page 31



Andrew Regan, left, Allan Green, top left, and David Chambers, top right, with wives and guests at a function in 1995

Regan ends bid as Nomura pulls out

By Sarah Cunningham

ANDREW REGAN and David Lyons have ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank that had been willing to lend them £1.2 billion.

CWS, far from being pacified by the move, reacted by announcing the start of criminal proceedings against the two men and against Allan Green, the CWS executive who admits that he supplied Mr Regan and Mr Lyons with confidential information.

CWS accused Mr Green of theft and Mr Regan and Mr Lyons of "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft", as well as handling stolen property. CWS said the case has been put before the City of London magistrates and that the three men will have to appear on May 28.

CWS is also beginning civil

proceedings against Hambros Bank, which advised Galileo, the company set up by Mr Regan and Mr Lyons to carry out the takeover, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's solicitors. CWS said "We have been advised that there is clear evidence that both these organisations acted in breach of an equitable obligation of confidentiality to CWS. There was no credible grounds for believing that there was any legitimate basis for Mr Regan to have any such documents."

Mr Regan, who heads the Guernsey-based Lanica Trust, and Mr Lyons would not comment yesterday. A spokesman said that they had been advised not to speak ahead of a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

The collapse of the bid should clear the way for Lanica's shares, which were suspended in February after an enormous rise in value, to be re-listed in the next few days. Lanica's broker, James Capel, was in talks with the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Galileo's official line was that it had decided to end the bid after directors of the CWS declined on Wednesday to put its proposal to members. Nomura, which declined to make any comment, is believed to have given Galileo until 9am yesterday to come up with signed assurances about the deal, about Mr Regan's bona fides and particularly about the earlier cash payment of £2.4 million made to a middleman, Ronald Zimet.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a

company run by Mr Regan, which bought the CWS food manufacturing operations. Mr Zimet, who has been in Israel, returned to the UK yesterday. A spokesman said that on the advice of his lawyers he was unwilling to talk about the deal.

Nomura is believed to be willing still to back a bid for CWS and it is understood some American banks are circling. Allied Irish Bank said it was still interested in buying the Co-op Bank, if it ever comes up for sale.

It was also confirmed yesterday that J Sainsbury was approached by Mr Regan about acquiring some of the CWS supermarkets. In a letter to the CWS solicitors, Sainsbury's said that it has returned all documents concerning the property.

Pennington, page 29

Barclays breaks ranks with banks on preparing for monetary union

By Oliver August

BARCLAYS BANK has broken ranks with the banking industry and warned customers that it is not preparing to have euro retail banking services ready for early monetary union. Other top banks say they would offer euro accounts from the start of a single currency.

In the absence of a political decision, Barclays does not expect sterling to join the euro in the first wave and does not want to waste money.

Its stand goes against Bank of England recommendations published yesterday. These suggest that banks should go ahead so that they can start euro operations if needed.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "We won't have converted our counters so that they can run on dual currencies, which is what is required just before the changeover, but we might be able to meet that provided a decision was taken in the very near future. As time goes on we will find it more difficult to meet that."

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Pennington, page 29



Buxton: not converting

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4388.5	(+0.8)
Yield	2.85%	
FTSE All share	5120.47	(-0.88)
Nikkei	18698.07	(-37.40)
Dow Jones	8822.75	(+10.04)
S&P Composite	774.26	(+0.82)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	94 1/8%	(94 1/8%)
Yield	7.10%	(7.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Life long gilt	108 1/2	(108 1/2)
3-month bill	108 1/2	(108 1/2)

STERLING

New York	1.8283	(1.8283)
London	1.8283	(1.8283)
DM	2.7324	(2.7324)
FF	9.4222	(9.4222)
SP	2.3781	(2.3781)
Yen	255.18	(255.18)
£ index	108.7	(108.7)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7185	(1.7185)
DM	1.7650	(1.7650)
FF	1.8223	(1.8223)
Yen	125.38	(125.38)
£ index	108.7	(108.7)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN 128.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	£18.25	(£18.10)
--------------------	--------	----------

GOLD

London close	£340.75	(£340.85)
--------------	---------	-----------

* denotes midday trading price

Ethical victory

An 18-year-old Cambridge student is the latest winner of the *NatWest/Times* Business Ethics competition. Owain Evans beat five other finalists with his ideas as to how Go-Build, a construction company, should reconcile the demands of shareholders and environmental protesters. The contest made clear that youngsters expect high standards from business and will punish those guilty of unethical behaviour. Page 31

Discount move knocks Laura Ashley shares

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Laura Ashley, the fashion retailer, plunged almost 30 per cent yesterday after the company said that this year's profits would be hit by a decision to sell its spring and summer clothing at discount prices.

The collection, which showed a move away from the flowery prints that made Laura Ashley famous, was the first to be produced by the design team put together by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive.

The warning led analysts to cut profit forecasts from about £25 million to as low as £18 million. The price markdowns will cost the company about £4 million, while increased advertising in America is expected to cost up to £3 million. The shares fell 41p to close at 104p after touching a low of 94 1/2p.

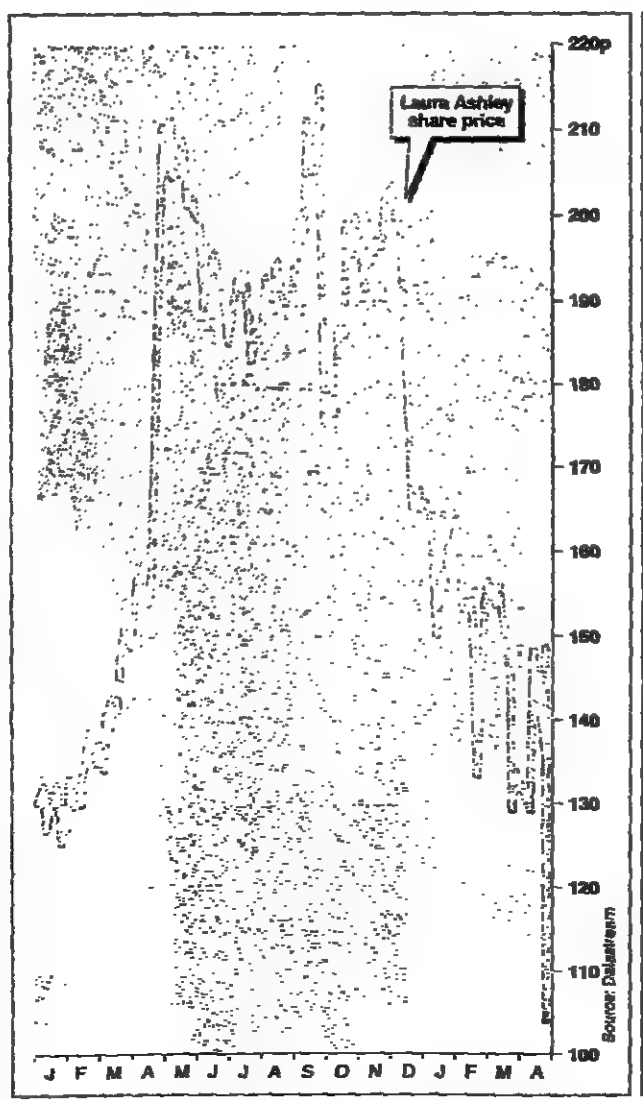
Mrs Iverson, who joined Laura Ashley nearly two years ago with a brief to update the company, said over-aggressive sales targets were the main reason for the price markdowns. She added that a slower than expected new opening programme in the

US had also meant too much stock building up. "It is an over-buy issue, not a design issue. I am very supportive of the design change and confident of the direction." The problem would not extend into the second half of this year, she said.

However, analysts were concerned that apart from discounting Laura Ashley was trying to bring down prices to a point where it could compete with the likes of Marks & Spencer and Next. One said: "Next imports from the Far East and is not saddled with Welsh factories, so it could afford to sacrifice a bit of margin and give Laura Ashley a bloody nose."

The company yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25, pre-tax profit rose to £10.2 million from £10.3 million. Earnings per share were 4.28p (2.97p) and the final dividend of 0.6p, payable on July 4, gives a full-year payout of 1p (0.5p).

Pennington, page 29



Carby's £600,000 payoff

By Marianne Curphey

KEITH CARBY, one of the co-founders of J Rothschild Assurance and a key player in its six-year history, is to leave the company, in which he has a £10 million stake, with a £600,000 payoff. He declined to explain the reasons for his departure, scheduled for July 4, and said he was "looking for new challenges".

Ten days ago JRA announced a reverse takeover of St James's Place Capital (SJPC), the holding company, to bring JRA to the stock market and realise personal fortunes for Mr Carby, 50, and Sir Mark Weinberg and Mike Wilson, co-founders.

Under the restructuring deal Mr Carby was to remain managing director of JRA and sell 20 per cent of his stake to Prudential, netting him an immediate £2.4 million. He publicly pledged not to sell the remaining 80 per cent of his stake in JRA for 12 months.

SJPC said yesterday: "Having established his financial independence, he has now agreed with the company that it would be in everyone's best interests to set a firm date for his departure."

Gazprom looks to the West for \$3.5bn

By Jason Nisbet

GAZPROM, the Russian natural gas giant, will today announce the first part of an innovative \$3.5 billion financing deal, one of the largest contemplated for a former Eastern bloc company.

The group's board agreed yesterday to issue a \$2 billion eurobond this September, underwritten by Goldman Sachs, the US securities firm, and ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. The five-

year bond is expected to have an interest rate lower than that of Russian sovereign debt, something that is virtually unheard of in the bond markets.

This fund-raising is expected to be followed next year by the issue of a \$1.5 billion convertible bond, also backed by Goldman Sachs and ABN Amro.

In dealing with the financiers, Gazprom has been advised by Middlesex Holdings, a small quoted company based in north London. The group, whose chairman is Lord Owen, has

created a niche in commodity trading and finance in Russia under the guidance of Masoud Alkhani, its Iranian-born chief executive. "This shows a massive change of attitude," said Mr Alkhani. "Two years ago you could not raise \$500,000 for Russia without collateral in the West."

The two issues will bring to \$6 billion the money raised by Gazprom from the West in only 12 months. In February Dresdner Bank led a consortium of 19 banks in lending \$2.5 billion

to Gazprom. The money is to be used to pay for a 3,000-mile pipeline being constructed from Gazprom's giant gasfields in Siberia to western Europe. On top of this, Gazprom has massive tax bills outstanding, which are reported to exceed \$4.5 billion, and is due to pay \$2 billion of this in the next few months.

The Russian Government has a 40 per cent stake in Gazprom and there has been talk of the group raising money via the London stock market.

Curiosity and Interest



Can any other cheque book create as much?

A 5.2% daily gross rate (5.43% gross compounded annually) is the wonder there is so much curiosity surrounding our High Interest Cheque Account. Whether it's an individual, company, partnership or club account, simply keep a minimum balance of £2,500, and ensure that the minimum value of cheques to be drawn on the account is £250 or over. And, the day after cheque payment, you'll have instant transfer bank access to your money.

If you've developed an interest in our cheque book...

call Luke D'Amico free on 0800 517477

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Tel: _____
I am interested in depositing _____
£ _____ (maximum deposit £2,500)
TIS



Kleinwort Benson
PRIVATE BANK
Kleinwort Benson Private Bank
PO Box 191 10 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 3LB
Kleinwort Benson Private Bank is a Division of
Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited
Registered in England Number 2086420
Member of the Dresdner Bank Group

ICI warns of job cuts to combat sterling problem

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH round of job cuts is expected at ICI, which is accelerating its productivity drive as the strong pound eats into already weak profits.

The chemicals manufacturer expects £120 million to be cut from this year's profits if sterling remains at its present level — up from the £90 million hit feared two months ago when ICI, whose chairman is Sir Ronald Hampel, announced results. In the first quarter of 1997, sterling cut £40 million from profits.

Alan Spall, finance director, said the productivity drive must be increased immediately to combat the impact of sterling. "That drive will inevitably fall on fixed costs such as manning," he said.

ICI is already implementing a rationalisation programme to reduce costs by £400 million a year and boost return on assets from 18 to 20 per cent. But the decision to scale up efficiencies was taken recently as the sterling problem proved tougher than first thought. Mr Spall would not put a figure on the extra job reductions but it is unlikely to be fewer than several hundred in the UK.

The sterling effect has led to casualties among large industrial companies that are heavy exporters or are geared to the mark for pricing. Recently British Steel increased its efficiency programme and said that up to 10,000 more jobs must be cut. Other companies have given warnings that the strong pound will reduce profits.

ICI has also been hit by strong pricing pressures in industrial chemicals, an area where it wants to reduce exposure in favour of more consumer-led chemical markets. Trading profit in the first three months plummeted £13 million into the red, compared with a £87 million profit in the same period last year.

Overall, trading profit before exceptional items to the end of March plunged £87 million — a drop of 58 per cent from the previous year.



Sir Ronald Hampel, left, chairman of ICI, with Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, when the company announced its results in February

Chambers of Commerce plea for 1p increase in income tax

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Bassett

THE British Chambers of Commerce yesterday called for a 1p rise in income tax to help to cool the economy without harming the fragile manufacturing sector.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, joined a growing chorus of business leaders and economists who believe the widely expected post-election interest rate rises will further damage manufacturing investment and export competitiveness.

The London Business

School (LBS), which publishes its spring *Economic Outlook* today, is also calling for the next government to consider tax rises in addition to raising base rates to help to head off the threat of inflation.

Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the school and a former member of the Treasury panel of independent forecasters, argues that fiscal tightening would take some of the strain off interest rates and prevent the pound rising fur-

ther. "Selective" tax rises would also help to place government borrowing on a sustainable basis and provide room for targeted tax cuts later in the Parliament.

The LBS forecasts that rates will rise to 7 per cent by early next year — with a 0.5 per cent rise needed immediately after the election — to counter the inflationary threat posed by rising wages.

It believes that GDP growth will hit 3.1 per cent this year, but that the rise in sterling will

cause the economy to slow rapidly next year to register just 1.9 per cent GDP growth.

The BCC call for a tax rise came as it announced the results of its latest quarterly industrial survey of more than 8,000 companies.

This showed that manufacturing and service firms were seeing a continuing decline in sales growth, with exports hit by the strength of sterling and confidence falling.

But the BCC said that high levels of recruitment difficul-

ties, coupled with rising wage settlements, could fuel wage inflation.

Trade figures published yesterday showed the global trade deficit widening to £758 million in February, compared with £535 million in the previous month. The non-EU trade deficit in March rose to £606 million in March, from £437 million in February.

Global export volumes fell 1.6 per cent in February, while non-EU exports dropped 4.1 per cent in March.

Second warning by Vickers

VICKERS, which makes Challenger tanks and Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, yesterday delivered a fresh warning about the strength of sterling, saying that profits for the first half of this year would fall short of those in 1996 (Christine Buckley writes).

The company pledged to take strong action to counter the impact of the high exchange rate of sterling. Last

month Vickers gave a warning that the strength of the pound could knock up to £7 million from its profits this year. Last year the company turned in pre-tax profits of £83.3 million.

Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman of Vickers, told shareholders attending the company's annual meeting that export orders were proving harder to obtain and profit margins on them tended to be thinning. About half of the

company's sales come from exports. Sir Richard said that 1997 would be a year of consolidation, but predicted that the company's prospects would be stronger after that.

He added: "We are confident that the significant investments which we have made will positively impact results and that over 1997 and 1998 taken together, the growth pattern for your company will be sustained."

P&O places order for £200m superliner

P&O CRUISES has placed a £200 million order for a new superliner with a German shipyard, it was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The ship is to be built at the Meyer Werft shipyard and will be delivered for service in the spring of 2000. The vessel, which has not yet been named, will carry more than 1,800 passengers on worldwide cruises

from the UK and will be a sister ship to *Oriana*, which was also built in Germany and was introduced as the P&O flagship in April 1995.

The order comes after announcement in March that Princess Cruises, a P&O subsidiary, is to introduce a £300 million superliner. The *Ocean Princess*, is to be built at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy.

Alliance & Leicester defends its auctions

By OUR CITY STAFF

ALLIANCE & Leicester, the former building society that floated on the stock market on Monday creating windfalls for 25 million members, yesterday defended its free share-dealing service.

Peter White, chief executive, said: "The aim of the auctions was to ensure that the price reflected the trend in the share price over the early phase of trading, and this has been successful."

More than 157 million shares were sold through the service, which used three auctions to fix a price. On Wednesday it said the price for the 620,000 people who decided to cash in early was 533.7p a share, making the standard 250-share handout worth £13,342.25.

After the first day of trading, A&L shares closed at 566.5p, the equivalent of £1,416 — or slightly below £1,400 if a standard dealing fee of £20 is subtracted. The company said members selling immediately had received a price in line with the value at the end of the first two days on the stock market. By Tuesday evening, the price had fallen to 533p.

Hollinger suffers from subscription campaign

By ERIC REGULY

A COSTLY subscription campaign all but wiped out the 1996 profits of Conrad Black's British newspaper company, dominated by the *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister.

The annual report of Hollinger International, the Telegraph group's owner, revealed that the newspapers' operating income declined from £27 million in 1995 to £1.6 million in the year to the end of December. In 1994, when the price war with *The Times* began, the operating income was £33.9 million.

The downturn came in spite of an 11.6 rise in operating revenue, to £451.9 million, as the British group reported double-digit increase in both classified and advertising revenue.

Hollinger blamed the profits collapse on the £32.5 million cost of a direct subscription campaign that gave large discounts to new Telegraph readers. The discounts drove down operating margins from 9.23 to 3.52 per cent.

Hollinger said the subscription campaign helped to lift circulation at *The Daily* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

MCI's soaring costs keep profits flat in first quarter

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

MCI, the long-distance US telephone company that is merging with British Telecom, reported soaring costs had kept profits flat in the first three months of 1997.

The phone company earned \$295 million, unchanged from the same period last year, despite a healthy rise in revenues. Gerald Taylor, chief executive, said that profits from its core long-distance business grew to \$403 million, or 57 cents a share, but investments in new ventures slashed the profit growth by 15 cents a share.

Since last year's deregulation of the US phone industry, MCI has been investing in new areas such as local phone services and high technology. While revenue from local phone services rose 63 per cent to \$65 million, the cost of breaking into this business meant profits were minimal.

The company said it expected the extra expense investment in new areas was paying off. Information technology grew by 27 per cent to \$433 million, and revenue from its Internet services grew 200 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

French expansion by CU lifts shares

COMMERCIAL UNION shares, already buoyed by strong new business figures this week, rose further yesterday after news that the composite was expanding further into the French insurance market. CU said the deal would increase CU's new single premium business in France, which was £357 million for the first three months of this year, by 30 per cent. The deal is in keeping with CU's strategy of expanding on the Continent and French new single premiums will now be three times those of the UK.

CU said it had acquired 73 per cent of SEV, a French life insurer, and 100 per cent of a French broking business in an agreement with AFER, the largest association of savers in France and an organisation with which CU shares new business. The share rose 3p to 650p after a 13p rise the previous day.

Stakis rates drop

DISRUPTIONS caused by room refurbishment pushed occupancy rates at Stakis, the Scottish hotel and casinos chain, down 4.4 points to 64.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. The company said that its Metropole chain, which it bought last November, was trading well with occupancy already up by 5.3 per cent and room rates up by 11.2 per cent. Like-for-like casino attendances jumped 18 per cent to \$44,000, but spend per head declined by £5 to £12. The company's shares held at 100p yesterday, although 2.92 million changed hands. The company also named Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, as its fourth non-executive director, with immediate effect.

Pension provision falls

MORE than four out of ten working adults have no current pension provision — up slightly on previous research, according to a survey by NOP, the research group, based on interviews with 14,500 people. It found the proportion of people in either full-time or part-time work without any form of pension provision — other than the basic state pension — had increased by 1 percentage point to 42 per cent in the six months to December 1996, compared with a year earlier. The findings suggest attempts to encourage companies to increase their pension provision for their staff and for individuals to take out personal pension plans had met with "only limited success", the survey concludes.

Blue Circle package

KEITH ORRELL-JONES, chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, saw his total salary package rise from £383,846 to £390,972 during 1996, while he also cashed in executive share options worth £890,145, according to the latest accounts from the company. The accounts also reveal that he was awarded £123,900 "phantom options" last year, which entitles him to a cash bonus provided, certain performance targets are met. His total remuneration package also included a £92,036 performance-related bonus. The options covered a four-year period.

Interactive Leeds FC

CASPIAN Group said it will launch a Leeds United interactive TV service with Hull-based Video Networks at the beginning of next year. The service will create a virtual catalogue with 330 items currently available through Leeds United's retail outlets, it said. The service will also include a Leeds United video magazine with archive footage, and a bulletin board with club information. The interactive service will enable Caspian to participate in the development of broadband TV services, the group said. City Diary, page 31

Society looks at options

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, one of the building societies yet to announce plans to float on the stock market and convert to a bank, yesterday refused to rule out such a move. John Leighfield, the chairman, reaffirmed the desire of the society, the UK's eighth largest, to grow by "acquisition or merger". Speculation was inevitable in the current climate, he told the society's annual meeting. "The board continues to research all the options to ensure it is fulfilling its duty to act in the best long term interests of the society. No better destiny has been found."

Bodycote chief sells

JOSEPH DWEK, the founding chairman of Bodycote, the Manchester-based metal technology company that makes bullet-proof vests, yesterday sold 455,997 of his shares in the group at 745p each. The sale raised £3.4 million for him. The shares closed at 750p yesterday. Mr Dwek holds 3.4 million shares, representing a 4.22 per cent stake in the company. At yesterday's closing price, the holding was worth about £25.5 million. Mr Dwek made a similar sale in May last year.

Trinity Holdings ahead

TRINITY HOLDINGS, the fire engines to refuse lorries company, lifted pre-tax profits 9 per cent to £17.4 million in the year to January 31. The company sold 1,000 of its special buses, which lower themselves six inches to provide a no-step access for passengers. It also secured orders for 240 of its double-deck version of the bus. Its airport vehicles division was boosted by orders for its "no-pole" tractors. Earnings nudged up to 20.0p (20.5p) a share. The final dividend is 6.1p, bringing the total to 8.9p (8.2p), due July 31.

Poor response to review

THE Securities and Investments Board claims that only two in five people contacted in the personal pensions review process have responded. At present, life insurers and independent financial advisers are contacting hundreds of thousands of clients who may have been mis-sold a personal pension. So far, the industry has offered a refund of £80 million to 10,800 people, making the average amount of compensation £7,500 a person. The industry has been strongly criticised by regulators such as the SIB for taking so long to resolve the situation.

For your company golf day... it's the business

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not just golf clubs) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more member players take part.

How to participate

1. Hold a golf day involving at least 12 players and play under the Standardised scoring system.
2. Complete and send the form, together with the registration fee of £250 (plus VAT on most as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 21st September 1997).
3. After your golf day, simply submit the results of your top scoring players (with official club handicaps) one of whom must be an employee of the registering company.

* Golf days registered after 21st September or played after 21st September will be entered for the 1998 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times "For your company golf day" feature.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times "For your company golf day" results section.
- A list of top performing players for your golf day winners.
- 10 copies of The Times magazine for the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- A golf day sponsored by the MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine - The Business Golf.
- Three months' free subscription to Golf World magazine.
- 10 free standardised scoring cards, (printed or submitted to 245 (handicap), of the top 10 players in the company's top 25 players in your company's results. They will qualify as a team to play in one of the MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge Finals in October 1997.
- The winning company from each of the four regional Finals will compete in the National Final of MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge in November 1997, to be played at a City TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.

Rules and Conditions

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of registration or you may obtain a copy by calling the Challenge office (details below) or by Fax/Post on 0950 880 654 (calls cost 10p per minute). The competition is governed by the R & A for payment of appropriate Rule 9-4 £25. TRAVELERS

Further Information

Call the Challenge office on:
0171 405 7275 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
or you can access the internet site on:
<http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorpgo/gol/>

Company Registration

Company name: _____
Name of Company Representative: _____
Position: _____ Company Address: _____
Post Code: _____
Telephone No: _____
We are holding a golf day at: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
County: _____
Post Code: _____
If the above and date of your golf day have yet to be decided please leave space and return as it is as it is collected.

Entry Requirements
Please print or type clearly what you would like to see on your trophy including presentation upper and lower limits. We report that participants who cannot be accepted into the trophy design.

Date of Golf Day: _____ 1997
Company Name (Maximum 30 letters): _____
Name of Golf Club (Maximum 30 letters): _____

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and indicate a cheque for £250 (plus VAT) made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.L.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

TITLE SPONSOR
MeesPierson
MERCHANT BANKERS SINCE 1720

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS
CITROËN **WATERPOUR**
GOLF WORLD **NATION**
OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS
Talbot **ABERNET** **Barwell** **GOLF**

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Boys	Girls
Australia \$	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	20.54	19.04
Belgium Fr	60.48	55.98
Canada \$	2.376	2.208
Cyprus Cyp	0.971	0.808
Denmark Kr	11.16	10.38
Finland Mk	8.88	8.31
France Fr	6.82	6.12
Germany Dm	2.84	2.72
Greece Dr	481	431
Hong Kong \$	13.31	12.51
Ireland Ir	127	107
Israel Sh	1.10	1.02
Japan Yen	8.00	5.15
Italy Lira	2520	2720
Malta	218.90	202.50
Netherlands Gld	0.657	0.602
New Zealand \$	3.318	3.046
Norway Kr	2.00	2.28
Portugal Esc	11.30	11.19
Spain Ptas	201.00	271.00
Sweden Kr	245.60	220.50
Switzerland Fr	12.19	12.19
Turkey Lira	2.23	2.33
Turkey Lira	222.57	200.57
USA \$	1.722	1.582

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

□ Everything to prove at Laura Ashley □ External approach is better for bids □ Banks must tackle millennium bug first

A fashion for flowery words

ONE can only speculate as to the manner in which the irascible Sir Bernard Ashley received the latest trading figures from the company that bears his late wife's name but those of a sensitive disposition would have been well advised to keep clear.

Sir Bernard, whose family still holds almost a third of Laura Ashley, would have been justified in suggesting to chief executive Ann Iverson that she cut the jargon and explain why the company she was so confident she could put to rights is still struggling.

For the chief executive to offer the platitudes that "we continue to remain a results-driven group" is hardly destined to win a round of applause from shareholders who have just seen the value of their investment fall by a third.

After nearly two years in the role, Ms Iverson is still experimenting without producing results that suggest she has found a formula worthy of reproducing.

She is undoubtedly highly motivated — the potential to pocket up to £5 million in another couple of years should provide some inspiration. But on current performance, the glossy American will not have to worry about any new windfall tax that may be looming.

There are two views on Laura Ashley. The first, encouraged by

the enthusiasms of Sir Bernard, believe that it has all the makings of an international brand that could rank among the best. The second sees it as a niche player, which cannot grow too far out of its heritage however much Ms Iverson tries to cast off the floral prints. On current view, the second may have got it right.

Ms Iverson, often described as feisty, has taken the brave step of investing heavily in moving Ashley into big new stores in the US, with little indication that these will be any more successful than the smaller ones that have been failing to perform.

In the UK, she tells us that the company has cleverly kept up sales levels by "taking greater mark-downs in order to ensure better sell through of in-season merchandise". This is what other retailers refer to as having a sale.

It will take more than jargon to improve results from the group. Whether she blames late store openings or over-optimistic ordering, the chief executive has had to admit that the next set of figures will be disappointing because customers are not buy-

ing all that Laura Ashley wants to sell.

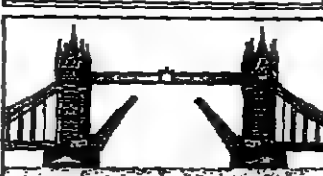
Her task is made harder by the heritage factor: the Welsh factories that were part of the original Ashley dream and which Sir Bernard is loathe to close. Whatever the theoretical benefits of an integrated business, Laura Ashley has never found them.

Ann Iverson has brought in an almost entirely new team to help her turn around the company, most of them female. They may loyalty shop in the company stores but their custom will not be enough to bring her the bonus.

Regan's folly comes back to haunt him

SO IT has all ended about as badly as it possibly could for that clever Andrew Regan. His backers are distancing themselves, the Co-op is bringing criminal proceedings against or suing anyone involved, and shares in Lanic are about to be relisted. Once they are back to the three-ha'pence they are probably worth after this décalé.

PENNINGTON



Mr Regan will not be bidding for anything much larger than a box of paperclips.

Good thing, too. His activities have done a disservice to the City, and to anyone who thinks it right for underperforming managements to be swept aside in favour of performing ones, to the benefit of those who actually own the assets. This is the justification for the contested takeover bid, and if Labour makes these more difficult in power, some of the blame must rest with Mr Regan and his pals.

This has been one of those occasional bids — Forte and Granada was the last — that has made it on to the front pages from the financial sections. The City should always be on its best

behaviour on such occasions, and few new readers will have cared for what they read this time. Bungs to Cayman Islands companies, the looting of private documents through the back door, the CWS's resorting to private detectives to photograph Mrs Regan's bikini seems a justified response.

Mr Regan's City backers may not have been out of the top drawer — hard to imagine a Cazenove or a Lazard becoming involved — but their reputations, and especially that of Schroders, have been tarnished. Nonetheless, it is not all bad news. It is change at the Co-operative movement that will be the most lasting legacy of this affair.

There are already pressure groups springing up among members demanding that further approaches be taken seriously. If a respected retailer, a Sir Geoff Mulcahy say, comes along, or an organisation with the right altruistic credentials — wild thought, John Lewis — they will have to be heard. Or Graham Melmoth and other Co-op heavyweights will have to improve performance from inside.

Given the internal tangles at the CWS, the CRS and the rest of the movement, an external approach may prove to be the easier.

Barclays backs ostrich over EMU

BARCLAYS is right to risk political incorrectness and tell Britain's politicians to stop being so self-indulgent over the single currency. Across Europe, banks and businesses (including the continental parts of British groups) are preparing actively for retail use of the euro in the confidence that their own governments are pressing ahead. It may not happen but any business decision carries such risks.

If British companies are to press ahead, they have to do so on two alternative strategies. Some adjustments need to be made whether the UK joins or not. The cost of conversion is heavy enough to dent bank profits noticeably.

Some changes affect customers. Shoppers would have to put up with a shortage of cash machines, for instance, while

most were converted to euros. Banks that lost millions gearing up for the Stock Exchange's aborted Taurus system do not want to throw scores of millions down the drain on a euro the UK is not likely to join.

The millennium problem for computers coincides with the first wave of EMU. The former will cost even a relatively simple bank such as Abbey National at least £50 million. Both main parties have authorised statements saying that UK entry in the first wave is "extremely unlikely". So it is sensible, rather than ostrich-like, to put the domestic euro on the back burner and cope with the millennium issue first.

Snakes and ladders

INTRODUCING what has to be the worst AIM stock ever. Snakeboard International note the International providing some spurious credibility along with David Lloyd as a non-executive — makes a skateboard you steer by wiggling your feet. Who could resist such an invention? The company has now managed two profits warnings before its first set of figures as a quoted company. Surprise, it was brought to us by our old friends Neill Clark Capital. It would be more interesting to know who actually puts up real money for these dogs.

Equitas court victory for Lloyd's

By Adam Jones

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has won a High Court battle over a controversial "pay now, sue later" clause in investors' contracts. The society had taken legal action to collect money from three names who allege they are victims of fraud.

Mr Justice Colman ruled yesterday that Dennis Leighs, Geoffrey Lyon and David Wilkinson have to pay a share of the costs of establishing Equitas, the reinsurer that took on the market's crippling liabilities.

They had claimed that they were recruited fraudulently, invalidating a "pay now, sue later" clause in their contracts.

"Lloyd's said it will now be able to start collecting about £30 million from dissidents, even though an appeal should be heard in the next few months," Ron Sandler, Lloyd's chief executive officer, said.

"Lloyd's is delighted that today's ruling, taken together with Mr Justice Colman's earlier ruling in the action,

upholds the legal basis for the reinsurance into Equitas."

In the same dispute, Mr Justice Colman ruled in February that the Equitas structure is legitimate, dismissing one justification for non-payment.

The American Names Association, which wants to sue Lloyd's in US courts, welcomed the decision. It said it proved that "no remedies for fraud exist for US Lloyd's investors in the UK courts".

The United Names Organisation, a pressure group of investors, said the ruling means many names will not be able to afford legal action over fraud allegations.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, chairman, said: "For the English names with no proper investor protection law to help them, this judgment represents a setback."

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association's Working Party, said: "Lloyd's continues to behave with arrogant disregard for those it has ruined."

Later this year, Mr Justice Colman will consider the position of non-paying names who say they are being pursued for sums larger than those agreed when they accepted the reconstruction and renewal package.

Earlier this week, the 1,000-strong Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group, which includes Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Sir Richard Body, MP, served Lloyd's with a writ demanding £1.6 million in unrefunded expenses.



Sandler: delighted



Collin Evans, chairman, said the womenswear range, rather than the menswear normally associated with Austin Reed, was leading group growth

Austin Reed cuts a dash for women

By Fraser Nelson

AUSTIN REED, the clothes retailer, is to launch a series of new outlets in an attempt to exploit the success of its women's power-dressing range.

The company, whose "Look the business" advertising campaign is targeting women across UK cities, is to open women-only outlets for the first time in its history. It is also planning to greatly increase the number of concessions that it operates, relaxing its dependency on stand-alone shops.

Colin Evans, chairman, said the womenswear range had enjoyed exceptional success last year, and was leading the company's growth. He said: "We have had the new women's team in place for two years now, and they have delivered three successful seasons. This has given us the confidence to go forward and expand."

He added that the company, which did not open any new shops last year, has no target number of outlets in mind: "This has got to be a cost-effective opportunity, and not just a race for space. We are actively looking to increase our footprint, but we are not going to rush."

At present, Austin Reed runs 45 outlets, every one offering both mens and women's clothes, with only one concession.

Strong retail sales helped the company produce pre-tax profits of £6.8 million (£3.4 million) in the year to January 31, beating market expectations. Earnings were 14.2p (7.2p) a share, and a final dividend of 4.25p makes 6.5p (6p) for the year, due July 1. Analysts expect profits to break through £8 million next time, breaking the record set in 1989. Its shares gained 2.5p to 254p.

Brent Walker leaps back into profit

By Alasdair Murray

BRENT WALKER, the leisure company formerly run by George Walker, has set a deadline of the end of the year to decide on the future of William Hill, its remaining asset.

The company's lending agreement with its banks runs out on December 31 and Brent Walker is expected to unveil a sale or flotation of the betting chain before this date.

Brent Walker, which almost collapsed in 1991, is still burdened with £1.3 billion of debt and a deficit in shareholders' funds of £1 billion. A float or a sale of William Hill is expected to realise up to £700 million. Bass, owner of the Coral chain, is tipped as a likely bidder.

Brent Walker succeeded in returning to the black last year, with a full-year profit before tax of £50.6 million against a

loss of £414 million the previous year. The result was boosted by a one-off profit from the £171 million sale of the Pubmaster chain in November and the award of £117 million in a dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the sale price of William Hill in 1989.

Overall group turnover increased 6 per cent to £1.65 billion, while interest charges totalled £166 million.

Operating profit at William Hill rose 30 per cent to £50 million. The company put the improved performance down to better deregulation and a strong contribution from in-store amusement machines. The company said trading since the start of the year had been encouraging. Brent Walker shares closed up 4p at 2p. There is again no dividend.

Bloomsbury book sales 20% higher

By Martin Barrow

BLOOMSBURY Publishing, the book publisher whose authors include the controversial Will Self, achieved an 18.8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million in 1996.

The company said it had high hopes for sales of Mr Self's new novel, *Great Apes*, published this week.

Yesterday Bloomsbury said pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 rose 18 per cent to £1.202 million, on sales of £13.655 million, up 20 per cent from £11.37 million. Earnings rose 21.4 per cent to 9.47p a share from 7.8p and the company is paying a total dividend of 3.5p (3.4p), with a 2.8p final.

Glaxo agrees truce with Zantac rival

By Eric Reguly

GLAXO WELLCOME, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, negotiated a truce yesterday with Novopharm that will allow the Canadian drugs company to sell a generic version of Zantac before it loses its American patent protection.

Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that is Glaxo's best-selling product, loses its patent protection on July 25. Glaxo is to allow Novopharm to sell generic Zantac, known as ranitidine hydrochloride, for a 16-day period ending July 25 in exchange for a one-off payment. Neither company would reveal the size of the payment, which is thought to be about £75 million.

In exchange, Glaxo has agreed not to take legal action against Novopharm for

breaching the deadline. Glaxo said the deal is profitable, implying the payment would more than offset the loss of Zantac sales in the period, but would not provide details.

Leslie Dan, chairman of Novopharm, said the 16 days will allow it to flood the US market with generic Zantac: "If we are the first in the market we have a huge advantage..."

Generic Zantac will sell for about half the price of the patented version. Zantac, once the world's best-selling drug, had sales of £1 billion in the US last year, down 14 per cent from 1995. The company has predicted that generic competition will slash Zantac's US sales by as much as 80 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Watchdog fines Invesco £60,000

By Adam Jones

INVESCO Asset Management has been fined £60,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the financial services watchdog, for lax accounting controls. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £25,500.

The rule breaches date back to 1994 and 1995. The fund manager failed to reconcile promptly company records with bank records. One personal equity plan (Pep) client account was not reconciled with bank records for 15 months. Inro rules say reconciliations should be done every five weeks.

It also failed to correct promptly reconciliation differences and to maintain written compliance procedures. Overall, more than ten accounts were affected.

Invesco warned Inro of the problems in 1995. A spokeswoman for the regulator said: "No investors have lost any money."

The problems stem from a reorganisation carried out after Invesco MIM, as the group was then called, was fined a record £750,000, plus £1.6 million in costs, by Inro in 1993.

The regulator had penalised 55 rule breaches, including Invesco's role in the Maxwell pensions scandal. The company had already been fined £75,000 for maladministration in its Pep business two years earlier.

These run-ins with Inro led to the company being completely reorganised. Tristan Hillgarth, Invesco chief executive, said that some procedures were overlooked in the transition: "We regret it happened. It was a time of great change." The group now manages £100 billion.

Mr Hillgarth said that the compliance department has been strengthened to improve Invesco's poor record with Inro. The regulator said that it was satisfied with the improvements.

Have your children ever heard the call of the mountain?

To receive a free brochure on family holidays in Austria, contact the Austrian National Tourist Office, P.O. Box 2363, London W1A 2QB. Tel.: (0171) 629 0461. Fax: (0171) 499 6038, e-mail: oeu@nato.co.uk, Internet: <http://austria-info.at/>

Austria. Holiday Break Away.

Austria

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Lanica shares face large fall over CWS bid failure

SHARES in high-flying Lanica Trust will more than halve when trading in the shares resumes after the collapse of Andrew Regan's leveraged bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Suspended more than two months ago at £19.50, the shares are expected to be re-quoted within the next few days. The opening price is likely to be between 40p and 50p, but dealers believe the price could fall even further now that the £1.5 billion Co-op bid has been scuppered.

The Stock Exchange said it was impossible to say when Lanica would be re-quoted, but it is known that talks between officials and the company were taking place last night. The Stock Exchange is said to be seeking certain assurances before giving its approval.

Lanica is a thin market covered by only two market-makers, HSBC James Capel and Winterflood Securities. They will only quote a price in 500 shares at a time.

Most of the large shareholdings in Lanica are listed under nominee accounts, but sources close to the company reckon that Jupiter Tyndall had built up an undisclosed stake of less than 3 per cent prior to the suspension.

The FT-SE 100 index, having briefly risen above the 4,400 mark, ended the day almost all-square, up 0.8 at 4,385.5. Investors were cautious ahead of today's gross domestic product figures.

Turnover of 809.7 million shares was bolstered by the continuing share buyback in LucasVarity, 1.1p easier at 140p, as nine million shares changed hands.

The profits slump at ICI left the price 20p lower at 700p. Brokers say margins remain under pressure.

The profits warning from Laura Ashley sent the shares down 41p to close at 104p, after touching 98p. Nick Bibb, retail analyst at Messrs Purb, says: "There were a lot of positive comments about the new range. Now the company is at its typical Laura Ashley level."

But full marks to the investor who unloaded 3.2 million shares on Wednesday, at 145p, a 6p discount to the ruling market price.

The 9p special dividend from Andrew Cohen's Betterware was warmly received by the City and the



Rolls-Royce margins fell and Vickers shares dipped 23p

price responded with a jump of 10p to 122p. The door-to-door and shopping group has surplus cash of almost £13 million.

Eurotunnel still remains deep in the red and the financial restructuring seems no nearer completion, but there was some relief for hapless shareholders as the price firmed 11p to 71p. Total

"buy" recommendations from BZW, HSBC James Capel, ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Société Générale Straus Turbott and Morgan Stanley lifted Bank of Scotland 18p to 357p as turnover reached almost six million shares. Banks generally were marked higher.

Over on AIM, dealings got under way in shares of Lady

wood in London at 143p. The price opened at 150p and ended the session at 159p, a premium of 16p.

Diagonal, a recent newcomer, firmed 21p to 319p with the help of a buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It came to market in March via Henderson Crosthwaite at 275p.

News of a bid approach lifted Comshare 28p to 157p. The price has come up from a low of 102p this year and is now capitalised at £18.5 million.

A profits warning from Vickers led the shares 23p lower at 202p and had a knock-on effect for the rest of the engineering sector. There were losses for BBA, down 7p to 334p, FKI, 5p to 180p. Laird Group, 16p to 395p and TI Group, 24p to 523p. Siebe

was also down 20p to 934p on talk it may be about to make a sizeable acquisition.

Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said: "Vickers was concerned that the City may have got the wrong end of the stick."

The company exports 34 per cent of turnover from this country and is affected by a strong pound. But it has also been hurt by heavy discounting of four-door models of Rolls-Royce and Bentley luxury cars prior to the launch of a new range of models. This had hurt margins and is likely to leave profits for the year static at between £80 million and £83 million.

ICI GILTED: Having marked time for much of the day, gilt prices fell sharply in late trading, reflecting similar losses among overseas bonds.

Growing concern about the criteria and implementation of a single European currency were blamed.

The June series of the long gilt shed £1.32 to close at £109.32 as turnover reached its highest level of the week with 50,000 contracts completed.

Brokers reported demand for index-linked issues, which kept prices stable, while a further steepening of the yield curve was recorded as Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £1.32 to £102.32. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1.05 off at £102.4.

NEW YORK: Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Allied Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6822.76 (+10.04)
S&P Composite 774.26 (+0.82)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18698.07 (+17.40)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12738.83 (+19.79)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 763.16 (+4.22)

Sydney:
AD 2474.7 (+2.41)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3367.36 (+1.41)

Singapore:
Straits 2024.17 (+1.63)

Brussels:
General 12374.32 (+1.82)

Paris:
CAC-40 2339.83 (+5.19)

Zurich:
SEA Gen 1001.80 (+5.70)

London:
FTSE 100 4385.5 (+0.82)
FTSE 250 4517.4 (+1.18)
FTSE 350 2152.0 (+0.71)
FTSE Europe 100 2209.94 (+5.28)
FTSE All-Share 2132.47 (+0.89)
FTSE Non Financials 2166.97 (+1.00)
FTSE Elected Interest 116.82 (+0.01)
FTSE Govt Secs 95.13 (+0.01)
Barracks 4767
SEAQ Volume 80.7m
US\$ 1.635 (+0.0032)
German Mark 2.7027 (+0.0129)
Exchange Index 95.6 (+0.8)
Bank of England official base (4pm) 1.4243
E-CEU 1.923
RPI 155.4 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1997=100
LPI 134.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES:
Alliance & Leicester 554p + 9p
Aurora Inv Trust 100
Avalon Oil 96p
Ave Europe 129p
Bickerton 38p
Charlton Athletic 57p
Close Bros Prot VCT 95p
Comino 13p
Donatantonio 74p
Harvey Nash 193p
Heal's 212p
Lacy in Leisure 48p
Medway's 50p
NMT (SI) 124p + 1p
Newcastle Ltd 28p
Northstar Secs 48p
Oxford Tech Venture 48p
Quelaram (143) 15p
Silver Energy 15p
Socor Investments 102p
Torch Hedges 67p
United Overseas GP 61p
Worldsec 177

RIGHTS ISSUES:
Ask Central n/p (140) 35
Break for the Brdr (51) 1p
Edge Props n/p (135) 18p
Lumina n/p (330) 52p + 1p
Pemberton n/p (18) 3p

MAJOR CHANGES:
Rises:
Bar & Wall 257p (+24p)
Bank Scotland 357p (+18p)
Andrew Sykes 589p (+20p)
Lloyds 721p (+80p)
Lloyds 721p (+80p)
De La Rue 556p (+12p)
Betterware 122p (+10p)
Utd Assurance 471p (+15p)
Falls:
Ashley (Laura) 104p (-41p)
H&C Furnishing 248p (-17p)
Laird 395p (-18p)
Stentnight 337p (-10p)
ICI 700p (-20p)
P & O 598p (-15p)
GKN 815p (-21p)
Sage 660p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Taking a pounding

THE City has been fretting over the rise and rise of sterling since last August. To judge from the warning from Vickers yesterday, the full extent of the collateral damage is only just starting to become clear. A month ago, the company expected the strong pound to knock perhaps £7 million off its profits.

Yet suddenly it seems to have become much more difficult to sell Challenger 2 tanks overseas. Vickers is finding it harder to win export orders, and is having to accept lower margins. First-half profits will fall.

Worse, the smoke has still to clear from the battlefield. The short-term trading outlook is shaky, and may worsen further. This is not just a problem for Vickers but for many other engineering exporters.

Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars rose

13 per cent in the first quarter. Wealthy buyers who are prepared to pay up to £1 million for their custom-built motors can afford to ignore exchange rates, but other customers will quickly start looking elsewhere.

The underperforming medical division may be sold but it is the highly cyclical automotive division that poses the greater worry. Luxury cars such as a niche business that it is tempting to forget just how big a contribution the automotive division makes to profits—£37.6 million in 1996. OK, this also includes the Cosworth engine business, but it is Rolls-Royce that delivers the cream. The new model due in a couple of years' time may arrive in a much harsher economic climate.

At 202p, the shares are down almost a third in six months. The risks make Vickers one to avoid.

Betterware

THE LAST time Andrew Cohen made a killing from Betterware, it proved the ultimate "eject" warning. Those who missed it soon lost 84 per cent of their investment.

Although yesterday's special dividend may not be as overt a signpost as selling a huge chunk of equity, it will still unnerve investors whose memories stretch back three years.

This time, the evidence suggests that Mr Cohen is giving himself a multi-million-pound slap on the back, rather than pulling out the golden parachute. If there is an accident waiting to happen, it is hard to see it.

The profits are still a far cry from their 1989 heyday, but UK underlying growth is solid, and enough to keep the recovery on course for

CLEANING UP ITS ACT

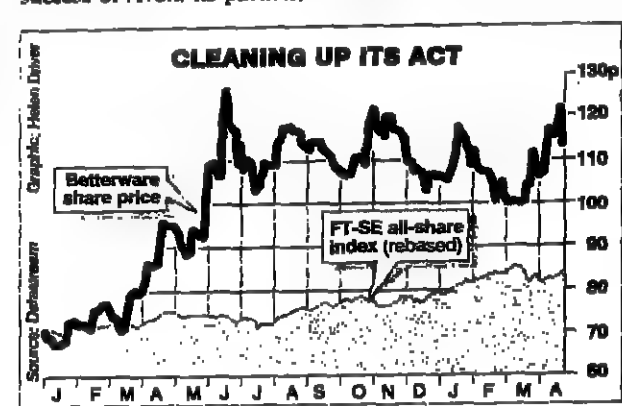
another year or so. More risky are Betterware's plans for world domination. It has spent £2 million setting up shop in emerging markets, with precious little reward so far. Mr Cohen confidently predicts that the seeds sown will grow to deliver 10 per cent of the fruit next time.

If Betterware matches the success of Avon, its partner,

Mr Cohen will have many more chances to "return value to shareholders"

And if the Latin Americans return their catalogues to sender, it will not bring the company down.

As long as the British continue to browse through Betterware on a wet Sunday afternoon, the shares are a solid hold.



ICI

ICI believes the prices of industrial chemicals will soon start showing some improvement. Encouraging as this is, it will take much more for ICI to cast off the ugly sister image it has acquired since it parted company with Zeneca.

Which is why the group must be casting its eye over Unilever's specialty chemicals operations. Buying one or more of them would move ICI closer to consumers, giving it an opportunity to earn better margins and providing a defence against the cyclical squeeze in commodity chemicals. Although ICI is tight-lipped on the subject, the company is in a strong negotiating position because it offers Unilever a relatively clean exit.

ICI's restructuring of its portfolio aims to reduce its bulk chemicals business from 40 per cent to 5 per cent of the total over the next ten years. It is easy to conclude

Glaxo Wellcome

GLAXO Wellcome's deal with Novopharm is making the best of a bad situation. Novopharm has fought a determined battle through the US courts to launch the first generic version of Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug whose huge success transformed Glaxo's fortunes over the last two decades. Novopharm won the latest round, and Glaxo had decided it is time to stop argu-

ing. The British company will allow Novopharm to start selling its version of Zantac for 16 days before the expiry of the US patent in July.

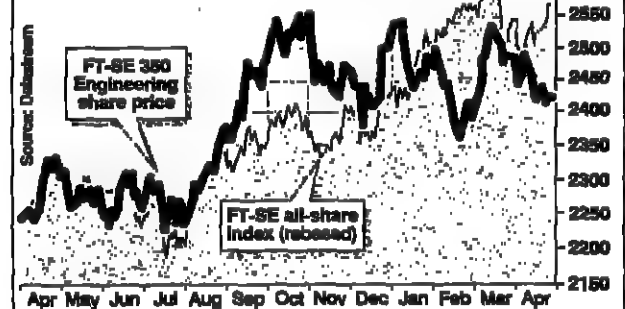
In return, Novopharm is making a one-off payment to Glaxo, thought to be about £75 million, which works out at nearly £5 million a day.

Novopharm's bet is that this small window of opportunity will allow it to seize much of the market for generic Zantac. The stakes are high: Zantac is expected to lose 80 per cent of its £1 billion of US sales to generic competition.

While £75 million is small compared to the loss of sales, the move shows the company Glaxo is finding clever ways to mitigate the damage. The formula could be used on future patent expiries.

The key will remain Glaxo's ability to produce new drugs from its pipeline. Recent signs suggest sales of new products may offset Zantac's decline by 1999 - making Glaxo a firm hold.

SORTING OUT THE MEN FROM THE BOYS



Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt
Previous open interest: 17498
German Govt Bond (Bund)
Previous open interest: 3842
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)
Previous open interest: 10428
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)
Previous open interest: 10428

Three Mth Sterling
Previous open interest: 46201
Three Mth Eurodollar
Previous open interest: 137017
Three Mth Euribor
Previous open interest: 134217
Three Mth ECU
Previous open interest: 32774
FTSE 100
Previous open interest: 44202

Base Rates: Clearing Bank's 5% Finance Rate 10% Discount Market Loans: Over 100% High 5% Treasury Bills (Discount) 2 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount) Sterling Money Rates: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Overnight: Open Rate 5% Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Sterling CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5% Building Society CDs: 1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Local Authority Deposits: 1 mth 5% 3 m

Ethical business practice in the spotlight

A £12 BILLION takeover bid has just collapsed, brought down by allegations of sharp practice and potential criminality. A day earlier, protesters outside General Accident's annual meeting in Perth, demanding that the insurer sell its shares in Shell, the oil group, because of its attitude towards the environment. Business ethics are coming under scrutiny as never before.

So it was appropriate that yesterday should have seen the final round in this year's Business Ethics competition, sponsored by NatWest Group and The Times.

Few senior businessmen would relish the situation that our six undergraduate finalists were asked to envisage: being under siege by rampant pressure groups and a highly critical media.

It was to encourage consideration and debate on business ethics that NatWest and The Times launched this competition three years ago. Yesterday Owain Evans, 18, an economics student from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, became the latest winner, with a cheque for £3,000, and a similar amount to his university.

The judges — Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, John Drummond, managing director of Integrity Works, a specialist business ethics consultancy, Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden & Islington NHS Trust, and Patience Wheatcroft, business editor of The Times — felt that Evans' grasp of ethical issues and the way they should be handled gave him the edge over his rivals.

Nicola Grant from Kingston University came second and Fiona Flinton from Wye College, University of London, came third. Each had been asked to put themselves behind the desk of the chairman of Go-Build, a construction firm engaged on building a road that was, inevitably, not to everyone's liking. Protesters in the Swampy would be on the attack and Go-Build had to contend with the dilemma of reconciling the interests of investors, employees, clients and demonstrators.

Most of our finalists demonstrated a trusting belief in the fact that the demonstrators would be amenable to rational discussion and that good communication could do much to cope with the problem. Businessmen might have taken that to issue on that point. But what business should note is that our bright youngsters almost all shared certain strong views on what constitutes ethical behaviour. In particular, they emphasised the need for business to care for the environment and advocated policies which could hit the profits that might otherwise go to shareholders. Their cry was for companies to look to the long term, with the optimistic refrain that ethical behaviour would bring its rewards eventually.

We must hope that their idealism will not be compromised in coming years.

PATIENCE WHEATCROFT

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Fair blows the wind from France for Eurosceptics

Chirac's dash to the polls increases the chances of EMU's launch being delayed

At last, an excuse to forget this futile and empty election campaign. Something much more important and unpredictable is happening across the Channel. President Chirac's sudden decision to dissolve the French Parliament is one of those rare political events which hit the world completely by surprise and necessitate a total reassessment of crucial assumptions about the economic outlook. In fact, Chirac's bolt from the blue could be compared with the Danish and French referendums of 1992, which set off the chain of events that culminated in White Wednesday, or the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which had no permanent effect on the oil price, but tipped the American and world economies into recession and led to the downfall of George Bush.

The assumption that France and Germany would inevitably join together in a monetary union was one that realistic Eurosceptics like myself have long accepted — despite our conviction that such a union would be a dangerous folly. On Monday evening, however, this assumption of inevitability was undermined. Overnight the probability that EMU would proceed on schedule fell from something like 95 per cent to nearer the 60 per cent or so that senior Bundesbank officials have always claimed to believe in. There is even a chance that the whole single currency project could now be postponed *à la carte* and that Europe will move towards a different programme for economic integration and enlargement in the years ahead.

The very subdued reaction in the political world and the financial markets can be explained in two ways. First is the rabbit in the headlights effect. So many people have been so firmly on the inevitability of EMU, that paralysis and denial are the natural first reactions to an event that could blow the whole process apart.

Secondly, there is the fallacy of the rational politician. Chirac, it is said, didn't have to call this election; therefore he wouldn't have called it unless he was sure he would win. Furthermore, Chirac is committed to EMU; ergo he would not do anything that would put EMU at risk.

These arguments, which I keep hearing from political and financial analysts, are absurd. Politicians are always making mistakes. If they keep blundering in their economic policies, their diplomacy and everything else they do, why should we assume that they are omniscient when it comes to forecasting how people will vote? The fact is that President Chirac did not call the election because he knew he would win it. More likely, he feared he would lose if he waited until next March. As for Chirac's



Attempts to meet the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union have already prompted protests in France



Lionel Jospin has criticised EMU austerity measures



Alain Juppé could find himself relying on Eurosceptics

alleged commitment to the single currency, it is worth recalling that President Mitterrand, who was far more of a Europhile than the current president, almost destroyed the EMU process with his capricious decision to call a referendum on Maastricht in the summer of 1992.

Setting aside assumptions about the political omniscience of the French Government, there are three possible outcomes of this election campaign. The election could be won by the Right. It could be won by the Left, but with a small majority. Finally, the Right could win decisively. Let us consider the implications of each possibility for EMU.

If the Right loses, EMU could be wrecked. While the French Socialists support EMU in principle, their only chance of winning would be to run against the austerity policies needed to hit the Maastricht targets — as indeed M Jospin has already done in the opening speeches of the campaign. But as the campaign progresses, the Socialists could go further to threaten the EMU process. They could decide to spurn their rhetoric with a dash of anti-German chauvinism which might appeal to the rapidly growing National Front vote. More probably, they could avoid any charges of xenophobia by finding common cause with the more sober elements of the German Social Democrats, the British Labour Party and the Italian left, all of which in different ways are moving towards similar policies of delaying EMU, while their countries give priority to

economic growth, "social cohesion" and the fight against unemployment.

A French Socialist victory on such a manifesto, far from antagonising Germany, could embolden opponents of EMU on the German left and weaken the uncertain electoral prospects for Helmut Kohl. Adverse market reaction to any signs of a Socialist victory which might emerge during the campaign could turn all this into a reflexive process — a financial crisis would raise the cost of convergence to politically unsupportable levels and that in turn would feed more market speculation and add to political uncertainty. This is exactly what happened in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and Britain in the autumn of 1992, during the last few weeks of the French referendum campaign.

It is, of course, possible that even if the Socialists were elected, they would perform an immediate U-turn and implement the EMU-inspired austerity policies they denounced during the campaign. This is the general assumption in the financial markets. To me it seems a rash assumption — not because politicians are normally true to their campaign promises, but because a decent interval usually has to elapse before a newly elected government can make a U-turn. In this case, however, the EMU timetable would require a U-turn virtually the day after the election.

Now consider the political outcome that is marginally more probable according to opinion polls — a victory for the Right. If the Right wins by a narrow margin, a core EMU will remain likely, no longer certain. The election campaign itself would widen fissures between Alain Juppé and the anti-EMU factions on the Right. If the result were a very narrow victory, Juppé's position would be in jeopardy and other leaders, less enthusiastic about the EMU project, would immediately start manoeuvring to take his place. Worse, M Juppé would have to rely on the Eurosceptics for votes and would have to heed their views (it is worth recalling the sudden power influence of the Eurosceptics in Britain after the Tories' narrow victory in 1992). The French Government would have even less backbone than it did in 1995 when faced with strikes and popular pressure. There could be serious and persistent uncertainty about EMU right up until April 1998.

Only if the Right wins decisively, will EMU be certain to go ahead. But since the markets have already priced in a 100 per cent probability of the German and French currencies merging, there is little for investors to gain by betting on this outcome. This leads to the biggest danger for the EMU process — the impact of the six-week campaign itself on financial markets. Until the votes are counted, neither the markets nor the politicians will know whether this is the option the French electorate chooses. The one thing that seems certain is that there will be numerous

Dead or alive: what's best for Eurotunnel's shareholders?

Small investors have a bigger say than the banks, according to Jason Nisse

The French trawlermen blockading the Channel ports gave Eurotunnel a fantastic publicity coup yesterday morning as it announced its full-year results. City analysts travelling to the meeting in Folkestone passed queues of trucks waiting to board ferries which were resolutely not crossing Channel. Robert Malpas, who took over as co-chairman of Eurotunnel from the much-loathed Sir Alastair Morton earlier this year, found it hard to suppress a smile. "They could have blockaded in a month's time," he joked.

Even better would be in two months' time when the tunnel will be open for freight traffic (assuming it can get its safety certificate). The need for Eurotunnel to win back the level of business that it had before last November's fire will be critical to the refinancing of the group's £8.7 billion of debts. But Eurotunnel will be hoping the direct action, which is so much a part of the French mentality, will not be in evidence on July 10 when it hopes shareholders will approve the restructuring deal.

Unlike most public companies in the UK or France, institutional investors do not control Eurotunnel. About 80 per cent of the company's shares are held by small investors and more than 85 per cent of those are French. The company needs representatives of a quarter of its 700,000 shareholders to turn up for the meeting even to go ahead.

Three different action groups are lining up against the board. They are unhappy about the amount of the cake that is being handed to the banks. Under the deal first unveiled last October the shareholders would see their stake in the group cut to 54.5 per cent in an immediate debt-equity swap, with further dilution to 39.4 per cent if bondholders convert into equity and down to 24.5 per cent in 2006 if Eurotunnel is unable to pay its interest bills. But there is another complicating factor with the exercise of warrants in the group which would bring the shareholders stake back up to 51.3 per cent.

The most radical, L'Association pour l'Action Eurotunnel, led by Christian Cambier, has been a thorn in Eurotunnel's side since 1992. It has an Internet site where shareholders can lodge proxies to vote against the refi-

nancing and offers a booklet entitled *Eurotunnel, le Hold Up programé*.

The second, Adapté, is canvassing shareholders for a "no" vote, having looked at yesterday's figures and found no solace. "We are resolutely against the proposals which we consider grossly unfair," said Georges Berlioz, a lawyer representing Adapté. "We do not know how many will support us, but then M Chirac does not know how many will vote for his side."

The third, led by Sophie L'Hellias, of Franklin Global Investor Services, a US group, speaks for institutions holding about 1.6 per cent of Eurotunnel shares. Though she says she is waiting to read the small print, it is understood that Ms L'Hellias is unimpressed by the proposals on the table.

At the last annual shareholders meeting 36 per cent of those who voted opposed motions from the Eurotunnel board. If that is repeated the refinancing will be blocked. "If shareholders do not approve, it will be a mess," Malpas said yesterday.

Though in theory the banks have the right to take back the licence under which Eurotunnel operates if the refinancing is not approved, it is much more complicated in practice. Pulling the plug on Eurotunnel will place the group in a French form of administration, which is heavily biased in favour of shareholders.

In the words of one banker: "In this situation any distribution from the sale of the licence to another operator would bring a first payout to exactly the bolshevik shareholders who brought the company down."

Within the banking community there is the feeling that the shareholders deserve nothing. Eurotunnel debt was trading on the secondary debt markets at 45 per cent of face value yesterday — valuing the £8.7 billion of debts at a mere £3.9 billion — and many debt traders consider this too high. "We offered some at 43 the other day and there were no takers," said Gary Klesch, of Klesch & Co, one of the most active in the market.

Yet the shares rose 1.5p yesterday to 71p, giving the company a market value of £650 million. Could Eurotunnel be worth more to shareholders dead than alive?



Sophie L'Hellias is unimpressed by the proposals

Caspian's Leeds Lasers

A 12-year-old boy living in north Leeds bumped up his pocket money by £1,000 yesterday. Daniel Kennedy came top in a competition run by the Yorkshire Evening Post to christen the new hockey team being launched by Caspian, the leisure and hotels group that owns Leeds United. The hockey team, which makes its debut on the ice this autumn, will henceforth be known as the Leeds Lasers.

Opera post

ACCOUNTANTS with an ear for opera could do worse than give Norman Broadbent International a call. The firm of headhunters is looking to fill the role of director of finance and resources at Glyndebourne. Mark Beddy, 36, the incumbent, is off to join the British Study Group. Eighty per cent of the job will centre on Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tours. A five-figure salary has been

mentioned and free tickets will be a perk of the job.

Monumental

ROBERT MALPAS, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel, was moving into the realms of hyperbole yesterday, describing the cross-Channel rail link as "the most important piece of infrastructure built in the world this century". This of course puts it ahead of the Golden Gate Bridge, Heathrow airport and the Panama Canal. Glad to see Mr Malpas has everything in perspective.

O'Reilly honour

TONY O'REILLY, multimillionaire chief executive at Heinz, is to have a theatre named after him. The £50-seat arts centre in Pittsburgh, an



Tony O'Reilly is to have a theatre named after him

area where the food company features large, will cost \$18 million to build. It is to be funded by a donation from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, topped up by the Howard Heinz Endowment. Building is expected to be complete by

1999, and the first play will be by Brian Friel, the Irish playwright.

Plain speaking

ANY City gent who thinks he can add to Ann Iversen's

personal life — think again. The troubleshooting chief executive of Laura Ashley, who has been married and divorced four times, doesn't mince her American-twanged words when quizzed on the subject of English men. "They don't open up quite as much as I would like. I think you have to be the aggressor a little more than you do with American men. You've got to nurture them a bit."

Cayman bound

ANN NEALON'S colleagues will be green with envy when they hear about her appointment as chief executive of the Cayman Islands stock exchange. A former director of policy with the Hong Kong stock exchange, and a solicitor who has practised with

Clifford Chance and Linklaters & Paines, the 38-year-old Brit and her peripatetic husband are busily packing their sun lotion.

Smile, please

TONY BLAIR, selling toothpaste? The grinning Labour leader would be best suited for a role in Colgate's pearly-white toothpaste campaign if he went into television advertising, according to a survey by *Marketing* magazine. Meanwhile, John Major would be best cast in Allied Dunbar's sinister campaign with the slogan "There May Be Trouble Ahead", according to 19 per cent of voters, while Paddy Ashdown could star in Commercial Union's "We won't make a drama out of a crisis". WORD has it that we will know on Tuesday the name of the new chief executive of Channel 4. Insiders say that a special meeting has been scheduled to announce the successor to Michael Grade.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Battling for Cheaper Car Insurance?



Quality low cost comprehensive cover

Call Harry at Hastings Direct FREE on 0800 00 1066

Please quote ref. T7032

HastingsDIRECT 0800 00 1066

Fitzwilton set to sign supermarket deal with Safeway

FROM EILEEN MCCABE
IN DUBLIN

FITZWILTON, the holding company based in Dublin that owns the Wellworth supermarkets in Northern Ireland, looks set to sign a joint venture agreement with Safeway that could lead to the creation of a new all-Ireland supermarket chain.

Talks between the two sides, which began several months ago, were given fresh impetus by Tesco's decision to jump into the Irish market with the purchase last month of ABF's food retailing outlets on both sides of the border for £630 million. Yesterday Tony O'Reilly, the Fitzwilton chairman, said a number of options were being considered for the Wellworth chain,

which has an 18 per cent market share in Northern Ireland. Significantly, in view of concern expressed by small Irish supermarket suppliers after the Tesco deal, he said that regardless of which option was chosen, "we will give pride of place to our Northern Ireland suppliers who have stood by us so firmly over the years". It is believed that Mr O'Reilly favours a

joint venture arrangement under which Safeway would pay £80 million for 50 per cent of the Wellworth chain. Part of the proceeds of such a deal could be used to finance Fitzwilton's decision to exercise its option on a further 3.6 per cent of Waterford Wedgwood at a cost of £124 million. The move increases Fitzwilton's stake in the company to more than 16 per

cent. Mr O'Reilly and his extended family own a further 7 per cent of the company. Fitzwilton reported flat pre-tax profits of £15.1 million for the year to December 1996. Earnings per share slipped to 14.01p from 14.25p in the previous year. Mr O'Reilly said that the results reflected the multimillion pound development programme at Wellworth to help it to

meet the challenge of newcomers to the Northern Irish supermarket scene. In spite of a 6 per cent increase in sales, operating profits were down 7 per cent to just under £19 million. Fitzwilton declared a final dividend of 11.35p, payable on August 29, which brings the total dividend for the year to 12.4p, compared with 12.35p.

Trading scandal plunges Nomura into red

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN TOKYO

NOMURA Securities, the troubled Japanese brokerage, plunged into the red last year after a \$2.94 billion charge against its trading subsidiary.

Nomura said the parent company's net loss was ¥271.51 billion (\$2.15 billion) in the year to March 31, against profits of ¥23.1 billion last time.

But the nation's biggest brokerage said yesterday it enjoyed a healthy jump in its current profit in the year to March, helped by income from bond trading and underwriting.

Current profits were ¥124.19 billion, up 35.7 per cent year on year and the highest in six years. Current profit is pre-tax and includes gains and losses made on investments.

Japan's securities industry suffered a major setback last month when Nomura said two of its directors were involved in suspected illegal deals in which substantial sums of Nomura money were moved to the account of a corporate customer linked to a *sokaiya*, or business racket.

The outlook for Nomura's business remains gloomy. It has already been hit hard by the scandal, which has led many clients to refrain from trading with it.

In March alone, Nomura's current profit dropped to about half the usual monthly levels due to the scandal, which cut its brokerage commissions and its share of the underwriting market, a company executive said yesterday.

"As one might expect, the scandal has had an effect (on our profits)," said Takamichi Arata, a Nomura director. He added that it was hard to calculate the extent. He said the brokerage hoped to see a parent current profit this month and in succeeding months by the cutting of operating costs.

Nomura was cutting its monthly operating expenditures to between ¥20.2 billion and ¥20.3 billion per month in April, down ¥2 billion from March, said Mr Arata. That would be 22 per cent below the peak of ¥26 billion (\$206 million) five years ago.

Nomura's share of trading volume on the Tokyo bourse fell to 9.2 per cent in March from 11.4 per cent in February, toppling it from the top spot it had held since February 1992.

Analysts said the fate of Nomura's business this financial year hinges on how hard the Ministry of Finance comes down on the brokerage after regulators complete their investigation. Reports suggest the authorities could suspend some of Nomura's operations, including stock dealing on its own account, for about three months as a penalty for the scandal. Such a penalty would be the heaviest ever imposed on a securities firm in Japan.



JONATHAN PALMER, chief executive of Ugland International, the shipping group, which lifted pre-tax profits to £3 million for the year ended December 31, compared with £1.2 million for the previous nine

months. The results are the first since the group trebled its size by purchasing the Ugland family's stake in Hual, a Norwegian vehicle carrier, for £99.9 million, financed by increased borrowings and a

share issue. Sales were £63.2 million, up from £28.8 million, and earnings per share were 5.96p, up from 4.76p. No final dividend will be paid, making the total dividend 3.71p (3.21p for nine months).

Betterware chief better-off by £4.6m after special dividend

BY FRASER NELSON

ANDREW COHEN, chairman of Betterware, is to pay himself a special dividend of £4.6 million after the door-to-door housewares retailer returned its strongest results for three years.

Mr Cohen, who raised £33 million from selling his stake in the company before its shares crashed three years ago, will pick up a total of £6.34 million this year through his family holding, which controls 47 per cent of

the company. He said: "We have all the cash we need to expand the business. We have been looking at ways of returning value to shareholders, and a buyback was ruled out because the directors own 52 per cent of the stock."

The special dividend of 9.31p will be added to the final payout of 2.53p, lifting the total to 12.83p (5.2p), which is payable on May 29.

The success of its catalogues — which the company claims

now reach one in every two adults in the United Kingdom — helped to lift pre-tax profits to £11.5 million (£9.29 million) for the year to March 1.

Although it spent £2 million building up its presence in overseas markets, there was no profits return. Mr Cohen put this down to the costs of setting up shop, but said its overseas operations should account for 10 per cent of group profit next time.

The company has joined

forces with Avon, a catalogue business with worldwide retail sales of \$6 billion, to make inroads into the markets in Australia, Mexico and Brazil.

It said that the market in Argentina was performing ahead of expectations, with the Brazilian operation due to start by the summer.

Mr Cohen said that the overseas developments would all be co-ordinated from the United Kingdom, with catalogues from Brazil being de-

signed in London and beamed over to other countries for printing.

He added: "Countries without a developed retail infrastructure have more need for catalogues. If the consumer can't go to the goods, the goods must come to the consumer."

Overseas sales rose by 27 per cent to £1.8 million over the year, and the number of overseas representatives rose to 5,000 against the 10,000 that now operate in the UK.

Mr Cohen said that the company has yet to penetrate urban areas in the UK. "Our weakness is still inner cities. People tend to be out of the house more, and this is a problem. We have sales people going around offices to target this, although it has not made a great deal of difference to the figures just yet," he added.

On an underlying basis, pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £10.8 million. Sales from UK home-selling rose by 11 per cent, as the number of long-term distributors strengthened. Overall earnings rose to 7.5p (5.9p) a share. Betterware's shares gained 12p, to a three-year high of 102p.

Times, page 30

BA to have Heathrow's Terminal 5 to itself

BY OLIVER AUGUST



Egan: "key step"

BRITISH AIRWAYS will be the sole occupant of Heathrow's planned fifth terminal, currently the subject of a marathon public inquiry.

BAA, the airport operator, yesterday announced that BA would vacate its present home at Terminal 1, should construction of the controversial fifth terminal eventually go ahead. Terminal 1 would then be occupied by SAS, Lufthansa, Air Canada, United and Thai airlines.

BA's move becomes neces-

sary as it prepares for its own alliance with American Airlines which has yet to clear regulatory hurdles. A decision is expected this summer.

BAA expects the first phase of Terminal 5 to open in 2004. The agreement with BA is conditional on gaining planning permission, which BAA expects in 1998. But protesters have said they will try to delay building work at Heathrow for as long as possible.

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "Our agree-

ment that British Airways should occupy Terminal 5, subject to planning permission, is a key step in the planning of this project which is so essential for Britain's economic future."

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said: "It has long been our dream to offer our Heathrow customers all of our services under one roof. The terminal will provide the best environmental answer to meeting the demands for additional airport capacity."

Cowie founder attacks succession hiatus

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SIR TOM COWIE, founder of Cowie, yesterday criticised the board of the bus operator and vehicle distributor for failing to appoint a successor to Gordon Hodgson, 65, the current chief executive.

Sir Tom stopped short of backing Neil Pykett, widely considered to be a candidate for the job until his dismissal in January. But he said: "We've got a 65-year-old who is running a company with 13,000 employees, and they've sacked the one guy who could have done the job."

Mr Pykett, the former managing director of Cowie Financial Holdings, was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct, two months after handing in his notice. He decided to resign after concluding that the job of chief executive, which he had long coveted, was not likely to be vacated by Mr Hodgson even though he is near to retirement.

His dispute with Mr Hodgson and Sir James McKinnon, chairman, started when they refused to announce Mr Pykett's resignation, or to allow him to sell company shares.

Mr Pykett was due to force an extraordinary meeting earlier this month to debate the affair. But at the last minute he withdrew his motion pressing against his sacking, saying that he would pursue a compensation claim through the courts instead.

Sir Tom, who is a major shareholder and who retired from the board in 1993, was speaking before yesterday's annual meeting in London. Mr Hodgson, who has said that he plans to stay on for another two years, did not attend the meeting.

Sir Tom played down the dispute but said: "It would have been better for all concerned if the whole thing had not been dragged through the public domain. He wants the board to report progress on the succession. They've been looking for 15 months and there's been a deafening silence so far."

On current trading Sir James McKinnon said the overall performance remained strong. All core divisions were operating well and were continuing to provide a solid foundation for growth.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Adare pays £1.35m in cash for Platignum

PLATIGNUM, the manufacturer credited with the invention of the retractable ballpoint and the felt tip, was bought by Adare Printing Group yesterday for £1.35 million in cash. The pen manufacturer was sold by Mentmore Abbey, which changed its name from Platignum last year after it took over Abbey, a self-storage business.

The deal is the latest twist in the chequered history of Platignum — which was originally called Mentmore Manufacturing — and was established in 1919. It floated with £6,000 in capital in 1935. Under the chairmanship of Arthur Andrews, Platignum became the second-largest writing instrument manufacturer in the world, but when he retired in 1970 the company ran into trouble. By the late 1980s the company had come close to collapsing under the weight of several ill-fated acquisitions. Last year, Platignum reported profit after tax of £200,000 for the 13 months to April 30, on turnover of £8.25 million. Adare Printing said yesterday that it hoped to develop the brand name of Platignum, in the same way that it had with Frontaprint and Ivy, its other print and stationery brands.

BS out of the red

BS, the Bristol property and leisure company, returned to profit last year, earning £1.4 million before tax, compared with a loss of £253,000 in the previous year. The results were significantly affected by the sale in December of Eastgate Retail Park and a Bristol Stadium site to Ikea, for £19 million in cash. Turnover was £8.1 million, up from £6 million, and earnings per share were 18p, against losses of 4p. A final dividend of 5p plus a special dividend of 5p will be paid on June 27, making a total of 10p (4.5p).

Folkes rises to £6m

FOLKES, the engineering and property company, yesterday reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £4.75 million to £6 million, for the year ended December 31, on a turnover of £40.4 million, down from £46.1 million. Earnings per share were 14.4p, up 31 per cent from 10.98p. A final dividend of 1.2p (1p) will be paid on July 1, making the total dividend of 1.9p (2.4p), which included a special dividend of 0.788p. The group said that it expects a steady performance for next year, despite the strength of sterling.

Fortune Oil advances

FORTUNE OIL, the lubricants and fuel distribution company based in Hong Kong, achieved a 31 per cent rise in net income to £2.76 million in 1996 on turnover of £392 million (£393 million). Earnings were 0.25p a share (0.2p). The company has a joint venture contract to supply aviation fuel at 16 airports in central and southern China. It also operates 11 petrol stations. The company said that it would continue to develop its core business in China in the current year and to develop the Fortune Oil brand.

Snakeboard profit blow

SNAKEBOARD, the skateboard company that joined the Alternative Investment Market last November, has admitted it is "extremely unlikely" to meet the profit forecast it gave to the City. About 80 per cent of the boards it was relying on to produce the profits had yet to come out of the factory, and are not expected for another five months. The company had originally forecast maiden profits of £2.5 million for 1997, and £4.48 million for 1998. Its shares, placed at 3½p, held at 1½p. Pennington, page 29

Carr's moves ahead

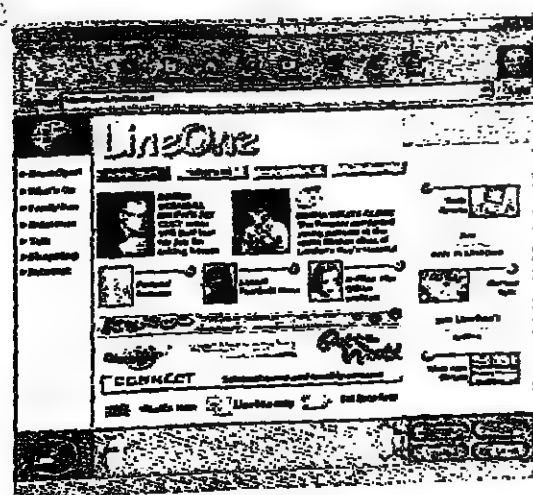
CARR'S MILLING, the Carlisle agriculture, food and engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits 11.3 per cent, from £1.53 million to £1.7 million for the six months ended March 1. Turnover was £43 million, up slightly from £42.4 million, and earnings per share were down 3.5 per cent, from 14.1p to 13.0p. An interim dividend of 3p (2.5p) will be paid on June 4. The company says that its sales of feed and fertiliser continue to be affected by the BSE problem. However, the group's bakery and engineering divisions are performing well.

Hopkinsons in black

HOPKINSONS, the Manchester engineering group that is disposing of its gas and valves businesses to focus on carborundum abrasives, achieved pre-tax profits of £500,000 in the year to January 31 (£1.7 million loss). Turnover was down, from £114,194 to £98,773, while earnings per share rose to 0.41p, against a loss of 4.19p. A final dividend of 0.8p will be paid on July 31, maintaining the total at 1.3p. The group continues to look for acquisitions for its abrasives businesses, and plans to change its name to Carbo later this year.

Approach for Omnicare

SHARES of Omnicare rose 21 per cent yesterday as the distributor of oxygen cylinders said it had received a bid approach. The company, which has capitalised on the increase of patients being treated at home through shortage of hospital beds, is rumoured to be in talks with a US-listed healthcare company. Shares in the company, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 60p about 18 months ago, have been steadily climbing since February. They rose 35p to 163½p, valuing the company at £19.3 million.



It's time to try LineOne

One month's free membership.

10 hours' free access to LineOne and the Internet.

LineOne, the new UK Internet service from BT and News International, is designed just for you, but has something for everyone.

- Exclusive UK content: including news and sport from Sky and the UK's top newspapers, local "What's On" listings, forums, computer games and reference information.
- Fast and easy Internet access with BT's award-winning Internet network. Plus LineOne's unique Intelligent Agent, AJ, will show you around.
- Unlimited access to LineOne and the Internet, for just £14.95 per month, including 5 e-mail addresses for you and your family. So you don't have to pay by the hour.

*or get on-line using the free Rich List CD-ROM enclosed in your copy of The Sunday Times on 5.4.97.



www.LineOne.net

Call for your free software pack now:

0800 111 210



■ MUSEUMS

Ordinary objects in extraordinary materials, as the Science Museum launches a new gallery



■ THEATRE 1

Bailegangaire augurs well for the Royal Court's new Irish discovery, Tom Murphy

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

Rare Tennessee Williams proves to be full of autobiographical interest in Hammersmith



■ THEATRE 3

Tom Driberg reincarnate? Michael Gambon gives a terrific performance as the dissolute MP

The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery will show you exactly what materialism means. Nigel Hawkes reports

Make what you will of it

Materials make men, or so the prehistorians preach. Stone, bronze and iron all gave their names to periods of history. Today the range of materials available to engineers and designers is so enormous that most of us would be hard-pressed to identify more than a handful of them.

At the Science Museum in South Kensington, the importance of materials is about to be recognised in a new gallery. Amid the dust and disorder of contractors striving to complete the job by the opening date of May 14, it is possible to see that a big investment — £4.5 million over the next ten years — is going to produce something good.

The old gallery was called Iron and Steel, Glass and Plastics. It's unlikely that anyone will remember it especially well, because it did not include any of those knockout items that stick in the mind. The new Challenge of Materials Gallery has set out quite deliberately to remedy the defect, with a stunning bridge made of glass and supported by fine steel wires which runs across the gallery 30 feet above the ground.

"Not everyone will want to go over it, and that's partly the point," says Heather Mayfield, project leader for the new gallery. "People look back on their visits to the museum and remember the really amazing things. We think this is going to be one of them."

Designed by bridge architect Chris Wilkinson and structural engineer Bryn Bird, the bridge is the lightest

possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire. At some risk of gliding the lily, these strands, the glass deck and the handrail are linked to a computer which will turn the various stresses experienced by the bridge into sounds. The



The Times has many uses, as Chelsea Lee's shoe shows

bridge will act, says the museum, like a huge musical instrument, the precise sounds depending on who is crossing it at the time.

The rest of the gallery is built around four themes: what materials are, how they are made, and how they are recycled. No modern gallery will be complete without plenty of "hands on" exhibits, and here they will include a demonstration at the atomic scale of how salt melts and vaporises when heated, and a display that turns from solid

into liquid and then gas, depending on how hard you turn the handle.

Those who prefer glass cases full of interesting objects will not be neglected. The gallery includes three huge "walk-through" cases, each with about 300 objects from the museum's collection. "These could be examples of the first time a material was used, unique objects, or things associated with somebody significant," explains Mayfield.

Wackier items to be found elsewhere include cardboard chairs, a Bakelite coffin, a wedding dress woven from steel wire, a stainless steel bomber jacket and a morning gown created by Vivienne Westwood from Axminster carpet. Students at Cordwainer's College in Hackney have produced some exotic shoes, made from unexpected materials. Not too many hints here of the pedagogic style of the old gallery, but the idea is to overturn preconceptions by showing familiar objects made from something strange.

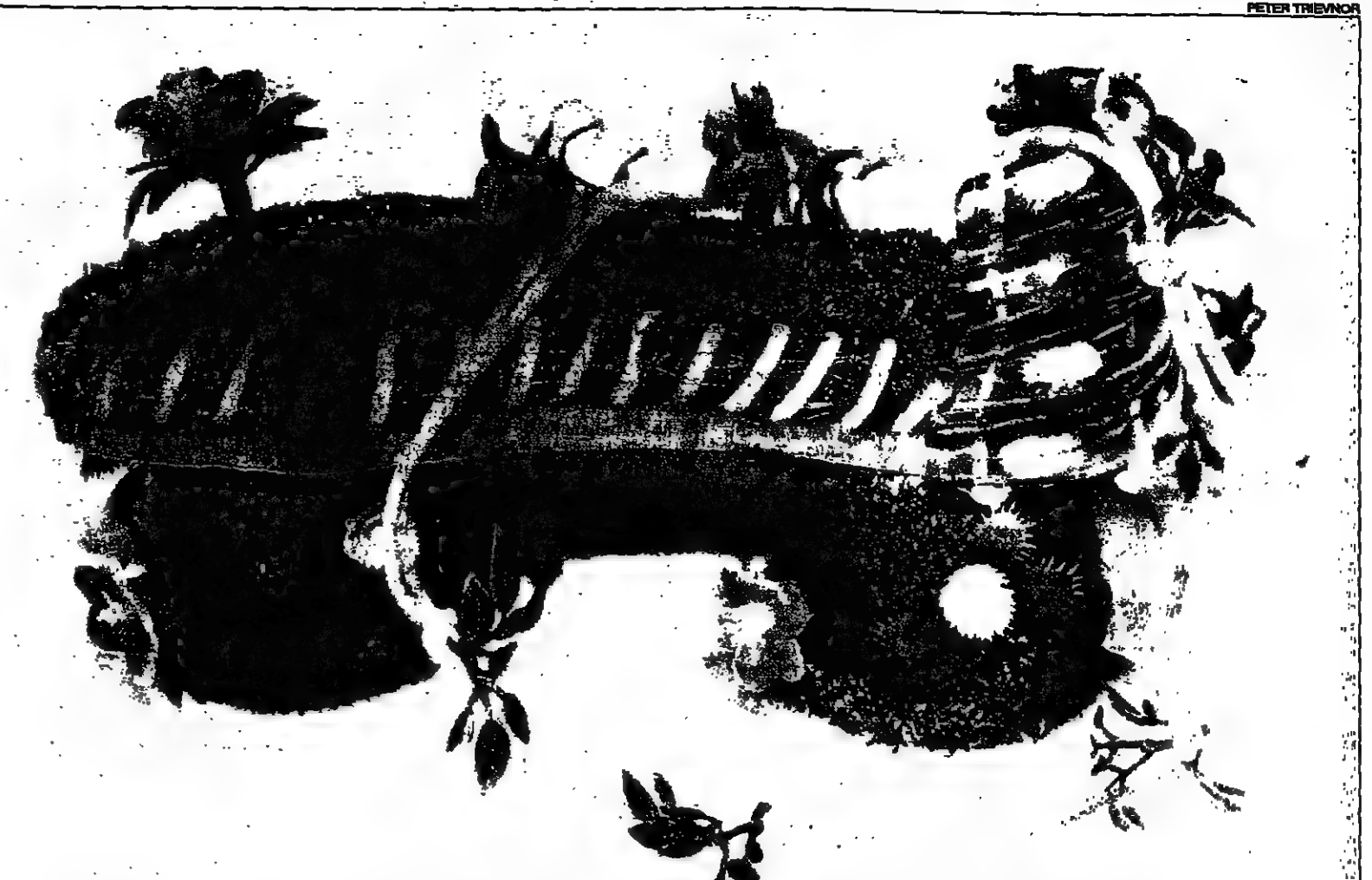
Challenge of Materials is innovative in another way, too. "We've determined that the gallery wouldn't look great on opening day, but then gradually get out of date," Mayfield says. "So the sponsors have provided the money over ten years. That means the core displays will change every 18 months, and we have three smaller cases that will be changed every six months."

Karen Davies, education adviser for the gallery, says that the aim has been to produce

something that can appeal both to the very young and to people with a professional interest in materials science. At several places around the gallery keyboards will allow access to a database with additional information.

Hanging from the ceiling is a steel-framed house, a strong hint that the principal sponsor of the gallery is the British steel industry. Money has also come from ICI, the Aluminium Federation and Court-audits. That materials have an artistic as well as an engineering function is shown by a suspended steel fibre sculpture by the Japanese artist, Kyoko Kumai.

On paper, at least, the design of the gallery strikes a nice balance between the need to attract an audience and the more traditional museum functions of scholarship and display. Teachers, who now have to include a lot of materials science as part of the national curriculum, are already showing considerable interest. The science of materials has been transformed in the past 30 years, and it looks as if the Science Museum will at last have a gallery that does it justice.



Cordwainer's College students have produced wacky footwear for the Science Museum's new Gallery: this Astrotruf shoe is by Lucia Simon

Hot stuff on the road from Blackpool pier

SECOND OPINION: The play *Tom and Clem* brings back memories for Bernard Levin

Tom and Clem — Stephen Churchill's first full-length play — turns on a somewhat strange story. We have to throw back as far as 1945, when the war was only just over; and when I looked round the audience at the Aldwych, I found a considerable number of people who plainly had no idea who Clement Attlee was. And while at least there were no people who did not know who Winston Churchill was, there were many who had no idea of the famous speech:

"My friends, I must tell you that a Socialist policy is abhorrent to British ideas of freedom... Socialism in its essence is an attack not only upon British enterprise, but upon the right of an ordinary man or woman to breathe freely without having a harsh, clumsy, tyrannical hand clapped across their mouth and nostrils... A Socialist government would have to fall back on some kind of Gestapo..."

Hot stuff, eh? Blair versus Major is nothing to those words and claims.

But now I must turn to

another and more exciting tale, and my age comes into the story. Hands up, those who knew who Tom Driberg was? Well, I was one; and before I say anything at all, I must point out that Tom Driberg's greatest pleasure was — I am sorry, but I have to use the word — buggery. Yes, I knew Driberg, but I did not follow his pleasure (which anyway was at that time a serious criminal action). He did indeed try it on — once we both went for a stroll on the sand at Blackpool — but I made it plain that I was not in that league, and he didn't get cross. Indeed his friendship grew.

But he took incredible dangers: once he told me that he had been practising his pleasure in a public lavatory when two policemen appeared and took him up. He kept his cool, and very gradually he made the two policemen believe that he would pull down the entire Churchill world if he was arrested; the two coppers believed him and they left.

But where was Clement Attlee? Well, I must say that I

have never seen a player in so exact a part when Alec McCowen took the stage as Attlee. I truly gasped, and for a moment thought that Attlee had come down from heaven — the bald head, the pipe, the very way of his talking. And then Michael Gambon took his part, as Driberg. We always expect brilliant work from Gambon, and we always get it. And we did, because Driberg was not only the man who seduced any other person who came near him, but there was another side to him. After all, he was a journalist, and a very fine one. He covered the Spanish Civil War, and in Britain he raged at the dreadful lives of the miners.

The play has not immediately been packed, and there has been a good deal of sniffing; I don't know whether it will live. It should. Perhaps I liked it because of my memories of Driberg. After all, he did get into the House of Lords — and oh, how I would have loved to see him draped with the ermine and trying, impossibly, to keep a straight face.

THEATRE: Tom Murphy's powerful Irish writing; Tennessee Williams's play within a play

Life, the universe and everything

THIS is the first of several plays by Tom Murphy that the Royal Court is bringing to the West End this year. And what does it bode for a season presumably designed to stop Londoners scratching their heads and muttering "Tom who?", and start filling him alongside Brian Friel in the section of their brainboxes devoted to contemporary Irish dramatists? At the end of the first act, I wasn't sure. Long before the end of the second, I knew the omens were excellent.

Act I bears a strong resemblance to *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which the Court staged last year, yet lacks that play's focus, sharpness and humour.

This time it is a granddaughter, not a daughter, who is forced to look after a difficult, demanding old crone, but her nerves are just as frazzled and her days as lonely as those of the protagonist of Martin McDonagh's black comedy. In this rural outbreak two sets of passing headlights within an hour count as "a lot of activity". For poor, put-upon Mary the only release from Mommo's endless jabbering is the odd visit by her married sister Dolly, with whom her relationship is decidedly edgy.

Rosaleen Linehan's

Bailegangaire Ambassadors

Mommo, slumped balefully in her bed, recognises Ruth McCabe's Dolly occasionally but Brid Brennan's Mary not at all. Moreover, she spends her waking hours obsessively repeating an old, incomplete story that comes close to matching the outpourings of Beckett's crazed derelicts for coherence. They concern the day her late husband stopped in a Bailegangaire pub after a bad day at the market. There he challenged a large, boisterous man — "the size and breadth of him, you'd have to step into the verge to give him sufficient right of way" — to a laughing contest. But for all Murphy's rich writing, do we care?

Yes, increasingly we do. As Act II approaches, Murphy's careful preparation brings its rewards. Everywhere the emotional stakes increase, higher and higher. The sisters talk of killing their grandmother. McCabe goes near-nuclear with rage at the absentee husband who brutalises her on his trips home. And Brennan at last gets Mommo to finish what turns out to be a fascinating, terrible story. It tells how Bailegangaire be-



Rosaleen Linehan (Mommo) and Brid Brennan (Mary)

came known as "the place of no laughter" after a contest in which the source of hilarity becomes death, grief and unending pain.

By the end James Macdonald's superb cast have done more than prove that Murphy can write powerfully about personal disasters. They have lifted a family drama into a state-of-Ireland play, and that into something akin to a state-of-the-universe play. Even Friel might have shied from the line about God despairing of Man, yet deciding to let him live "to see what transpires". With Murphy, the sentiment strikes both the mind and the heart.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Players in pain

Out Cry
Lyric, Hammersmith

TENNESSEE Williams made one of the two characters in this play, which he first titled *The Two Character Play*, cry out: "We can't turn back to children in public view!" But he himself longed to be able to exorcise demons and recapture bliss by so doing, and the works in which he tried to bring surrogates of his sister and his young self to life on the stage became of special importance to him.

When he wrote the various versions of this play the wonder is that he could write at all, having become so dependent on ferocious cocktails of drugs and alcohol. Remarkably, a narrative line is discernible. Police, an actor/playwright, and his actress sister Clare arrive in some theatre at the back of beyond to give a performance of *Out Cry*.

The play within the play, and the outer play too, will lead up to a re-enactment of the Inexplicable Accident that orphaned them, when Daddy (how could he!) shot Mother in the bathroom and then himself while staring out of a window.

When this scene eventually arrives the tension is hair-raising. Jason Merrells stands at a window, trembling in anticipation, while a terrified Sara Stewart levels a gun at his bare back. Then the positions are reversed. Bodies sweat, hands shake, faces strain. Thrilling stuff.

Oh, but a wandering pil-

grimage takes us there. We first see Clare as a raucous drug-dependent actress, aggressively resisting her apparently Svengali-like brother. They explore the cluttered stage, alter the positions of doors and massed sunflowers. Stewart ventures winsome little smiles when our presence is discovered, and both give elaborately detailed performances, vigorous, uninhibited — really, there's much interest to be found in that — and Timothy Walker's direction, for *Check by Jowl*, allows us to see the pain and panic in these two disorientated creatures.

Williams provides the occasional tangy phrase, and some neat ideas like the C sharp Clare thumps out on the piano whenever she wants to cut a scene, but despite such felicities (and the man's name, ironically, means happy) the way Williams chooses to unravel his incestuous lovers fails, by being overemphatic and yet crucially wispy.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft bearded giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zeffirelli Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

JEREMY KINGSTON

"THE WEST END AT ITS BEST!"

"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN TOWN. A STUNNINGLY BRILLIANT SCRIPT"

A HIGH THEATRICAL DELIGHT! A DELICIOUS COMIC SATIRICAL FRAMEWORK AND TOWERING PERFORMANCES FROM:

MICHAEL GAMBON & ALEC MCCOWEN

Tom & Clem

Play by Stephen Churchill Directed by Richard Wilson

"HUGELY ENTERTAINING"

ALDWYCH THEATRE ALDWYCH AVENUE, LONDON W1B 4DB. BOX OFFICE 0171 416 6007 FIRST CALL 0171 420 0000

MANSUN.

ATTACK OF THE GREY LANTERN

"MANSUN'S DEBUT ALBUM BOASTS A BREADTH, SCOPE AND SHEER AMBITION UNMATCHED BY ANY OTHER POST-OASIS BRITROCK BAND" *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH*

"MANSUN SHOW EVERY SIGN OF BECOMING AN ACT OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE TO RADIOHEAD" *THE TIMES*

"DISPLAYS MORE INVENTION IN THREE MINUTES THAN MOST BANDS MANAGE IN A LIFETIME" *DAILY EXPRESS*

"THE MOST ENTHRALLING, FAR-REACHING ROCK DEBUT IN AEONS" *MELODY MAKER*

THE DEBUT ALBUM OUT NOW



POP 1

Ancient Egypt feels the full force of the Wallinger effect on World Party's new album ...



POP 2

... while Paddy McAloon, muse to the stars, discovers God on Prefab Sprout's latest disc

THE ARTS



POP 3

From Hungary to *The English Patient*: Márta Sebestyén has voice, will travel ...



POP 4

... and another great pair of vocal cords, Peggy Lee, comes up trumps in a blues collection

Look on my work, ye mighty, and don't despair

Soon, Karl Wallinger will unleash his latest upbeat manifesto on behalf of his World Party. Paul Sexton acts as spin doctor

If a pessimist is just a well-informed optimist, then perhaps Karl Wallinger is better off wearing his rose-tinted specs. Ever since he set out his own ragged-trousered manifesto on World Party's debut album, *Private Revolution*, in 1986, Wallinger's standpoint has been unashamedly upbeat. Of course, in that quixotic era of Live Aid and the like, he wasn't the only one. "If you want a revolution, baby, there is nothing like your own," he sang, delivering the message in the year's most attractive wrapping — brightly patterned psychedelic pop with a big red bow made of Beatles, Beach Boys and Prince trimmings.

The idealism of that generation may have long since disappeared in a nasty bout of optimism fatigue, but a musical lifetime later Wallinger is preparing for the release of his fourth World Party album, *Egyptology*, with the same glass-is-half-full approach. And this is no blind faith: fully aware of the absurdities of modern life, he retains the missionary zeal of a one-man-band trying to make music that inspires.

"There's no reason not to feel that way," he says at Seaview Studios, the boffin's den in North London where he has spent years upon years plotting, pottering and meddling with each World Party release. And the more ridiculous life gets, the better service he's providing.

"You have some terrible visions of how it could go," he says. "It looks like the world's going to be a division of Sony, and bank clerks are going to be cloned, and Marks & Spencer is eventually going to be responsible for the whole world's food. Cows will go into one end of a huge shed in Siberia and come out as chicken ticks."

"But apart from that, you start getting into the groove of life and thinking it's always going to be bankers, and it's always going to have a chance and it's never going to be perfect. I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps."

Since the last World Party album, 1993's *Bang!*, was beaten to No 1 only by R.E.M.'s *Automatic for the People*, Wallinger has fiddled at Seaview while grunge and Britpop have burnt. He also fitted in a gig as musical director for the soundtrack of the romantic comedy movie *Reality Bites*, starring Winona Ryder.

But his main musical squeeze has been *Egyptology*, from which the upcoming single *Beautiful Dream* is now receiving extensive airplay on a radio near you. Along with

"I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps"

such grabbers as *It is Time and Call Me Up* and the romantic *She's the One*, the album contains a more shadowy piece called *Curse of the Mummy's Tomb*. But have no fear, we are not dealing here with the dread phrase "concept album".

"No, it was more a man in search of a name for his album," says Wallinger. "I hit on it, and now it's like [assumes nerdy voice] 'I joined the AA, and now I notice the stickers on the back of everyone's cars'. You notice how much of this civilisation that no longer exists is present all the time. If the Egyptians wanted to achieve immortality, they did it. One of the greatest press jobs ever: 'Press campaign of all existence, the award goes to ... the god Osiris'."

Wallinger continues his B-side homage to the Beatles on the *Beautiful Dream* CD single, which will include painstaking versions of *Penny Lane* and John Lennon's #9 *Dream*. "You just fancy it," he says.

"Like, 'What shall I do now? I know, I'll spend three months doing *Penny Lane*'. I've wanted to do a version of that since I was a kid."

Such are the perks of the musician with his own studio. But such freedom can be dangerous as well as luxurious. "It's a double-edged sword," he says. "You've got real freedom, so you've also got the freedom to make errors."

"It's good to have a bit of pressure, and certainly everybody I've been inspired by has worked under pressure. My starting place for recording, mentally, is the Beatles' *Revolution 9*, and it gets more organised from there."

As a tally of four albums in 11 years suggests, Wallinger's record label, Chrysalis, cuts him plenty of creative slack. Now, though, "it's table-thumping time", he says. "The season's started. When I began this record, I thought I'd turn it around in a short space of time, and I ended up taking the longest I've ever taken. One thing led to another. I was going to try to have something that seemed like a joined-up career, but it turned into perfections again."

For all his innate positiveness, Wallinger has moments of self-doubt, especially, he says, when he turns on MTV and catches the latest piece of lame-brained rap posturing. "I worry sometimes that music's becoming something that's made by people who can't be bothered and listened to by people who can't be bothered. I was worrying the other day about becoming old and decrepit, then I thought 'Don't worry about it, songs have been around for centuries', and I felt a lot better."

"Sometimes you get led into this belief that songs have only been around since the 1960s, and they're now going out of date. But then you remember people used to sit around Egyptian campfires and sing songs to the stars."

● *Beautiful Dream* is released by Chrysalis on May 27. *Egyptology* follows on June 16



Today a greasy spoon, tomorrow the World Party: Karl Wallinger lays his plans for global optimism

Mix and match

IT'S not often you find Peggy Lee rubbing shoulders with accordion player Boozoo Chavis, or Nat "King" Cole sharing the spotlight with harmonica star Shakey Jake. But all four feature in the latest batch of CDs in the Capitol Blues Collection. Lee, in a rocking mood with *Yeah Yeah Yeah*, slots in nicely to a double CD called *Jumpin' Like Mad: Cool Cats and Hip Chicks* (Capitol 852051 2), a lovingly compiled look at the

BLUES ALBUMS

Jump blues of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Other highlights include Nellie Luther's *Fine Brown Frame and Hips*, *Woman Blues* by T-Bone Walker. The less raucous side of the same era is reflected in the three-CD set *The Cocktail Combos* (852042 2), which includes Charles Brown, Floyd Dixon and a young Cole gently crooning his way along *Route 66*.

Going from that to the tracks on *Louisiana Swamp Blues* (852046 2) could be harmful to those of a nervous disposition. It's not known which, if any, of the participants on *Paper in My Shoe* by the Boozoo Chavis Band were sober when this gloriously incoherent zydeco classic was cut back in the 1950s.

Kansas City Blues (852047 2) leans heavily on the work of singer Julia Lee, pianist Jay McShann and the underrated blues shouter Walter Brown. Meanwhile a double CD, *Chicago Blues Masters Vol 3* (836288 2), has 1960s and 1970s recordings by three harp maestros, George "Harmonica" Smith, James Cotton and Shakey Jake.

Another company busy mining the vaults is Sequel which, not content with issuing treasures from the Atlantic label such as *The Clovers* (Sequel RSACD 857), *The Coasters* (RSACD 869) and *Lavern Baker* (RSACD 910) has now started raiding the King label. First up are key-boards star Sonny Thompson's *Jam Sonny Jam* (NEMCD 900), and a set of vocal group tracks under the attractive title *Great Googa Mooga* (NEMCD 907).

JOHN CLARKE

Paddy McAloon once trained to be a priest. Now he's a Prefab Sprout, but he still has his faith

In God's Prefab are many mansions

In a Merchant Ivory film, Paddy McAloon would be the gentle, cardigan-wearing priest who urges two shy lovers to make that twilight tryst. In the swishy musicals of the 1930s, he would be the book-loving millionaire who funds the off-Broadway show and comes up with the hit song at the last minute, when the original composer accident-

tally breaks his brain in a golfing incident. He wouldn't get the girl, though — the supporting cast never manages to get it.

And as it is in the films, so it is in the music world — McAloon will never get the girl, or a No 1 album. Only the players in lead roles get those, and to be a lead you have to be a little bit mad; a little bit

unresolved, a little bit TV-out-of-the-window-because-I-can't-find-the-words.

McAloon has never had a problem with words, and coincidentally has never had a problem with irate porters discovering shamed Sony flatcreens in the carpark. Having trained between the ages of 11 and 18 to be a priest, written lines like "Hi, this is

God here/Talking to me used to be a simple affair/Moss only had to see a burning bush and he'd pull up a chair", and built his studio, *Andromeda Heights*, as an annex to the house in which he was brought up, McAloon is rock's exemplary Gentlemanly Scholar of Love. And Scholars of Love don't tour.

"Ugh, no," he says, alternately sprawling and pulling himself upright, as if being relaxed would be a little impolite. "I'd go mad, ha ha, if I had to do all that 'be in the lobby at 9am' stuff. You do the touring when you're young and you're desperate to prove yourself. We did it to get an album deal and we've got one now. So I don't really find it necessary to go out and do something that I know would make me miserable."

McAloon's career with his band Prefab Sprout has been a singular one. Beginning in 1984 with the album *Swoon*, with its jazz inflections, complicated syncopation, hurtling ambition and bizarre time shifts, he followed with a couple of underground classic LPs before Jimmy Nail roped him in to write for his *Crocodile Shoes* album. Then Cher came knocking at the McAloon front door, cutting his nine-minute epic *The Gunman* down to four and yodeling all the way through it.

While Cher and Nail were out singing his songs, McAloon started stockpiling ideas. In the seven years following the 1990 God/Sondheim/Elvis concept album *Jordan: The Comeback*, he wrote five others, gave them all names — *The Atomic Hymn Book*, *Let's Change the World with Music*, *The History of the World*, *Zorro the Fox* and *Total Snow* — and left them in a drawer, waiting for

the right arrangers and impresarios to fund their dramatic scope.

Then the bills started mounting up, and McAloon decided to release *Andromeda Heights*, a pop album about life, death, love and, occasionally, God. "It's not something that white artists tuck very often, spirituality and Him," McAloon lifts his eyes towards the ceiling. "I'm very aware that people think you're a religious nutter if you mention Him. Most of my God songs are on *The Atomic Hymn Book*, but I think he's crept into a few of the things on *Andromeda Heights*."

It's difficult to describe quite how otherworldly *Andromeda Heights* is. Tucked away in a village outside Newcastle, smoking cigars and raising his child, McAloon has veered off on a blissful right-angle to the current music scene. Everything sounds like a sunset as seen from an aircraft: all dreamlike Arcadia, voluptuous towers of cloud and stars sprinkled like salt on the velvet of the sky. The verses of *Life's a Miracle*, for example, put a bittersweet lump in the throat, which the chorus effortlessly converts into heavy sobs.

"Well, it's about how we're all going to die, so we shouldn't waste a second," McAloon says. "I'm the king of futile idealism, and it horrifies me that people waste their lives mulling over the past, or worrying about the future. You just have to charge into life and get on with it. But make sure you don't knock anyone over while you're doing it."

● The single *Prisoner of the Past*, is released by Columbia on Monday, *Andromeda Heights* follows on May 5

Hungarian, so she's used to rhapsodies

Márta Sebestyén is one of the biggest celebrities in Hungary, a winner of the List prize, and a television personality, with a voice quite unlike anything you have heard before. Suddenly she is everywhere, in demand with film directors and concert audiences. In addition to being the voice heard over the opening credits of *The English Patient*, she is also to be heard in Hal Hartley's new film, *Flirt*, and on Sunday she plays to a sold-out audience at the Barbican.

So how did a singer of Hungarian folk song become Hollywood's favourite voice-over? "We were playing in California last year when this man came backstage and said he had been trying to catch up with me to ask if he could use my voice in his film," she says. "It was Anthony Minghella, the director of *The English Patient*. Someone had given him one of my records and he said 'this is the music I need for my movie'."

Sebestyén had recorded the song he wanted, *Szerelmem Szerelmem*, while she was going through a difficult divorce. "A singer's life, married to a musician — it could not work. I thought it miraculous that Anthony recognised my sorrow and pain through a recording. Although I sing it in Hungarian the message of the song can reach any heart."

Indeed, the power, beauty and emotional depth of Sebestyén's voice allow her, as one reviewer put it, to "make folk music for people who didn't even know they liked such things". There is also a strong Arabic influence in her songs that makes Kristin Scott Thomas's cultural confusion in the film perfectly credible. "You can hear that oriental ornamentation all over the Balkans, and Hungary is the last outpost of that. The Ottoman empire reached us and left its mark."

Who sang so beautifully in *The English Patient*? She plays London on Sunday

The music of Transylvania (formerly a Hungarian province but now part of Romania) will always remain her first love. "It was very isolated, very poor and that helped them keep their traditions." On her most recent album, *Kismet*, she also tackled Bulgarian, Bosnian and even Irish songs. "Wherever I go I can communicate. Words can be misunderstood, but never music." She tells a story about haggling for a carpet in Tunisia, where part of the price involved her singing. "It is easy to pay for something with dirty dollars, but it is a cultural exchange if you pay with a song."

Her musical upbringing started literally in the womb.



Márta Sebestyén: "Wherever I go I can communicate"

Her mother was an ethnomusicologist and studied under Zoltan Kodály, the great Hungarian composer. "When she got pregnant Kodály told her that musical education should begin before birth. So I was listening to the great master when I was inside my mother's body, absorbing music."

Sebestyén studied at music schools in Budapest and, by the time she was in her teens, was part of the "dance house movement", a student-based protest at the communist's stultification of culture. "It was a folk music revival, young people doing the old folk dances, not in that costumed, choreographed way the regime liked, but with freedom. The authorities couldn't control it, so they decided it was dangerous."

By 1980 she was singing with Hungary's leading folk group Muzsikás, with whom she still performs. As Hungary broke free of communism, opportunities to tour abroad opened up and Sebestyén has played to full houses all over Europe and America, Japan and Australia. There have been eight albums, and she has appeared on recordings with Peter Gabriel and Towering Inferno as well as on the hit ambient album, *Deep Forest*.

She defends her forays into the pop world. "If you listen I am still singing the same," she says. "I feel sorry for people who aren't crazy about traditional music, but I can pass the culture to them through something else. I will work with anyone who can use me for a good purpose."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● Márta Sebestyén is at the Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) on Sunday. The Best of Márta Sebestyén — The Voice Of The English Patient is released by Hannibal Records



Their first studio album in 10 years! Out now on cassette and CD

1000 copies of the CD are available on cassette and CD. Additional copies are available on public demand. September 20, 21 London Royal Albert Hall, 28 Newcastle Arena, 24 Glasgow SFC, 26 Sheffield Arena, 27 Manchester NYNEN Arena



POP 5

"Half of my songs are me doing therapy with myself," admits Paul McCartney



POP 6

Former EastEnders star Michelle Gayle calls her new album *Sensational*, but will anyone else?



POP 7

The best of Jimi Hendrix, and some dross as well, is repackaged as a double-album



POP 8

Punk with a 1990s spin, but little else to recommend it, comes from Gold Blade

Paul McCartney tells Des Burkishaw why promoting his new solo album is the last thing on his mind

Fab? If you say so, pop-pickers

It has been an exciting couple of years for Paul McCartney. First, one of his old groups sold 40 million copies of the three double albums in their *Anthologies* series, making them the biggest sellers of the year in America. Bigger, in fact, than Alanis Morissette, Oasis and R.E.M. combined. But then, the Beatles have always been something of a special case. Then there was the knight-hood, and now there is his latest solo album, *Flaming Pie*.

Not that he is exactly crowing about it. In fact, his record company is a bit worried about the lack of promotional effort McCartney is putting into telling the world that he, the world's most successful writer of pop songs ever, has another bit of product on the way. He has agreed to just a handful of television, radio and press interviews. There will be no tour to back

"I really won't be frantic if it isn't a success"

it up. And, frankly, Fab Macca doesn't give a damn.

"I started to ask myself what's it all been worth — the Beatles, the money and fame — if at some point I can't go 'Now can I have a good time?' McCartney says. "It's do or die. It would be great if *Flaming Pie* is a success, but I really won't be frantic if it isn't. If I keep on going like some manic preacher for the rest of my life, it just seems so pointless."

It has been four years since his last pop album, *Off the Ground*, and those diehard McCartney fans who share his view that he "got a bum rap" in comparison with the dedication of John Lennon will be hoping that *Flaming Pie* will be the great McCartney album for which they have been waiting ever since the Beatles broke up.

The good news is that *Flaming Pie*, written and recorded during the two-year *Anthology* project, is his strongest solo work for years. Oddly, the weakest track, *Young Boy*, has been chosen as the lead-off single in this country. That error aside, McCartney has made an album on a par with solo career high spots such as *Band on the Run*, *Tug of War* and *McCartney*, with a little help from friends old — Ringo Starr, George Martin — and newer — Steve Miller, Jeff Lynne.

That the quality of the songwriting



Paul McCartney strikes his best Eddie Cochran pose for the photographer. "That's nice, dear," says the snapper, Linda McCartney

has shifted up a gear or two should not perhaps be surprising, considering the turmoil of his life these past four years. Besides the return of the Beatles and the knight-hood ("It would have been rude to turn it down"), there have been record-breaking world tours, the premiere of the *Liverpool Oratorio*, his first major classical work, and the writing of his second, *Standing Stone* (due to be performed for the first time at the Albert Hall in October). Most traumatic of all, he has supported

his wife Linda through her fight against breast cancer. All this has left McCartney more introspective than before. The musical result is an album streaked with melancholy. He tentatively agrees with the assessment. "Yes, Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now," he says. "It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

Dropping his guard a little further, McCartney confesses that his music has stopped him "going round the bend". "Music has always been a consolation for me," he says. "When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

So a fly on the wall at home might catch him huddled over the grand piano having a good cry? "Yes. It's an underrated aspect of songwriting. If you asked a lot of songwriters

you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song. "I do that all the time. Half of my songs are very much me doing therapy with myself, and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly Jones."

The new album contains *Little Willow*, one of McCartney's most beautiful ballads since *Waterfalls*, written for the children of a close friend who died. "The morning I

heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

Thirty-five years after *Love Me Do*, the long shadow of the Beatles still dominates *Flaming Pie*. Even the title refers to a story Lennon once wrote about a man on a flaming pie who came to him in a dream and said: "From this day on, you are Beatles with an A."

"Working on the *Anthology* reminded me of the Beatles' standards," McCartney says. "If you run down the tracks on a Beatles album, they're all good little songs. So I thought I'd make an album where there wouldn't be a stiff on the track list — as far as I was concerned, anyway."

McCartney wrong-foots his critics by partially suggesting they were right to knock some of his early solo

"I hated a lot of songs from my early solo period"

work. "It was all post-Beatles stuff, and the Beatles were possibly the hardest act of all to follow. So Linda and I fell in with everyone else's opinion of it — which was that it was not as good as the Beatles, therefore it was no good at all. I hated a lot of songs from that period."

But his son James, who plays guitar on the new album, recently jogged his memory by digging out some Wings albums, to hear what the old man had been up to in the 1970s. "I'd forgotten a lot of it and it's really not as bad as I thought it was," McCartney says. "But I feel quite good because although it was put down, it doesn't go away. For anyone who does care to look at it, there's a hell of a lot to discover from that period."

His day may yet come. Part of his problem may have been to have had too wide a scope. With works as varied as *Yesterday*, the *Liverpool Oratorio*, *Helter Skelter* and *Mary Had a Little Lamb* under his belt, it is perhaps no surprise that he is misunderstood.

Possibly. But not everyone is going to study you that hard. They go on first impressions. So if they see me singing *Yesterday* they go: 'He's a balladeer'. But that's because there never was a video of me singing *Helter Skelter*."

● *Flaming Pie* is released by Parlophone on May 12

Legends brought to life

SIDNEY BECHET
Great Original Performances 1924 to 1943

(CDS Records RPOCD 632)
ISSUED to celebrate the centenary of the great New Orleans clarinet/soprano player's birth, this meticulous 24-track compilation contains 70 minutes of Sidney Bechet's best playing. His classic collaborations with trumpeter Tommy Ladnier, the more democratic Noble Sissle's *Swingsters* sessions in

JAZZ ALBUMS

the late 1930s, and the early-1940s sides with a stellar reconstituted Feetwarmers band form the meat of the album, but there are also fascinating glimpses of less familiar Bechet fare.

A roadhouse version of *One o'clock Jump*, tellingly juxtaposed with its studio successor, a unique outing on saxophone backing singer Eva Taylor and a cut from Bechet's 1941 one-man-band overdubbed session are all featured.

But overall it is Bechet's unrivalled ability to soar out of the ensembles, his playing equal parts grace and fire, that continues to justify his legendary status.

JIMMIE NOONE
The Apex of New Orleans Jazz (ASV CD AJA 5235)

BORN near New Orleans, and with an early career fully matching Bechet's, clarinetist Jimmie Noone might easily have been one of the seminal figures of early jazz. Instead, he is highly respected but not legendary, and this 74-minute compilation — comprising material from Noone's first 1923 session with drummer Ollie Powers, through his trademark recordings with his celebrated Apex Club Orchestra, to his revivalist *Kid Ory* recordings just before his premature death in California in 1944 — demonstrates why.

An elegant, restrained player with a round, full tone that blended sweetly with his most sympathetic front-line partner, also player Joe Poston, Noone was handicapped for most of his career by mediocre sidemen playing somewhat pedestrian arrangements. Nevertheless, his nearly incisive but melodious playing is one of the great joys of interwar jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

Low pressure arias bring Gayle warning

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair on the sleekly sterile soul songstress stylings of the new-look Michelle Gayle

MICHELLE GAYLE

Sensational
(1st Avenue/RCA 74324/19322 £13.99)

FROM soap star to soul singer is a career path fraught with many pitfalls. Michelle Gayle, once *Hattie Tavernier* in *EastEnders*, has avoided most of them, but is still not quite where she would like to be with her optimistically titled second album, *Sensational*.

Granted, she has subtly repositioned herself in the marketplace. With its smouldering cover portrait and the intimate whispered introduction to the opening ballad, *Fly Away*, the album oozes nature, intimate, soulful vibes. And there is an impressive variety of sounds and styles on offer, from the Joan Armatrading-influenced acoustic pop of the two hit singles *Do You Know* and *Sensational*, to the rootsy folk-blues of *Fakin' It*, the high point of the album.

But too few of the songs seem to come from the heart. A routine 1970s funk groove called *Working Overtime* and the drifting ballad *Yesterday* (how can anyone give a new song such a conspicuously second-hand title?) are typical of her appealing but under-demanding approach, while lyrics such as "Good times, yes they come and go/I know that's just a part of life," fall

some way short of revealing any profound truth.

JIMI HENDRIX

First Rays of the New Rising Sun

(Experience Hendrix/MCA MCD 11599 £9.99)

UNLIKE the surviving members of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix is not around to give his blessing or otherwise to the tinkering with his back catalogue that has gone on almost continuously during the 27 years since his death. But, as with virtually every other "new" posthumous permutation of his songs, *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* would be redundant were the man still performing today.

This one takes all the tracks from his essential 1971 album *The Cry of Love*, and jumbles them up with the more presentable numbers from the flawed *Rainbow Bridge* (1971) and the woefully substandard *War Heroes* (1972) to create "a historically accurate recreation of the double album Hendrix was working on at the time of his death".

The result is a carefully

annotated mixture of the marvellous (*Freedom, Hey Baby, Angel*) and the mediocre (*Isabella, Earth Blues, Beginnings*) which, accurate or not, certainly rewrites that chunk of Hendrix's history in a more elegantly contained way than the original albums did.

Also released this week are new editions of the core albums of Hendrix's repertoire, including *Are You Experienced* (complete with an additional six singles and B-sides), *Axis: Bold as Love* and *Electric Ladyland*. It is said that these have been "digitally remastered from the master tapes for the first time", and the sound quality is good enough for the claim to be plausible. But, if true, what a scandalous indictment it is of all the times these albums have been marketed as "digitally remixed and remastered".

GOLD BLADE

Homerturf

(Ultimate TOPPCDS £14.99)

THEIR name may remind you of instant coffee, and sometimes such word associa-

tions can be more than a coincidence. For Gold Blade, the English band led by motormouth rock journalist John Robb, offer a quick fix of 1970s punk culture with a 1990s spin that will do the trick nicely for anyone who has neither the time nor the patience to search out the real thing.

Their scattergun, pick'n'mix approach embraces a vast array of influences, from early Adam and the Ants on *Fastest Man Alive* to the Beastie Boys on *Not Even Jesus*. But dominating proceedings throughout is the inspiration of the Clash, especially on a series of ultra-belligerent rockers including *Strictly Hardcore* and *Black Elvis*.

With sleeve notes insisting that "the Tories cover as the Gold Blade righteous plan takes effect," their cartoon-revolutionary approach is entertaining enough. But whereas other latterday punks such as *Rodent From The Crypt* or the *Jon Spencer Blues Explosion* have brought something musically new to the party, *Homerturf* remains little more than the sum of Gold Blade's record collection.



Soap star in the suds: Michelle Gayle looks great but sounds less impressive on her second album, *Sensational*

THE JAYHAWKS

Sound of Lies

(American 74321 46406 £13.49)

ANOTHER album (their fifth) and yet another turning point for the Jayhawks, the Minneapolis country-rock band for whom the phrase "great things just around the corner" might have been coined. The departure of singer and songwriter Mark Olson, who broke ranks after the disappointing sales of *Tomorrow the Green Grass* in 1995, has left the reins of power firmly in the hands of the remaining singer, songwriter and guitarist Gary Louris.

As well as struggling to keep the band afloat, Louris has been having a tough time in his personal life, and it sounds like it on *Sound of Lies*, an album dominated by a succession of measured tunes with meaningful lyrics such as *Trouble, Think About It* and *Stick in the Mud*. The occasional uptempo tracks, such as *Big Star*, are outnumbered by the more ponderous songs — notably the dramatic *Streets Down* — which sometimes work as individual items, but give the collection a distinctly laboured feel overall.



Whatever you think you can do on the Internet, you probably can — if you know where to start. But it's a very big 'if'.

However, if your school subscribes to The TES Internet Service, for just £99 per year, you'll be guided to all the best educational sites on the Web as they come on-line.

We also provide Ofsted reports, a searchable archive of every TES article and review since October 1994, and our Internet staff room discussion forum. To make sure your school doesn't get left behind, look us up free at <http://www.tes.co.uk>, or call us today on 01708 378 379.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

Copyright CML

© Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (-) Tellin' Stories.....Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
- (2) Spice.....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (1) In It for the Money.....Supergroup (Parlophone)
- (3) Ultra.....Depeche Mode (Mute)
- (4) Dig Your Own Hole.....Cast (Polydor)
- (1) Dig Your Own Hole.....Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
- (6) White on Blonde.....Texas (Mercury)
- (9) Blur.....Blur (Food)
- (5) 10.....Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
- (7) Tragic Kingdom.....No Doubt (Interscope)

■ DANCE

Phoenix Dance Company marks its fifteenth anniversary with a beautiful new piece

VENUE: Tonight, Stephen Joseph. Scarborough

DEE CONWAY

Jeannette Brooks and Ricardo G. Goodison wriggling through Darshan Singh Bhuller's new *White Picket Fence*

as the dancers' personal spaces. The effect depends on your sense of humour being able to plug into the determined jollity, because the crude flurried dance shapes hold no aesthetic interest. Let us hope Phoenix's new director will introduce different criteria of taste to the repertoire.

NADINE MEISNER

CONCERTS: Father and son take on Shostakovich; plus a Czech maestro on an Austro-German theme

Fine Czech mateship

DURING their ten years together, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and its music director Libor Pešek have forged one of the most solid partnerships on the British music scene. The Czech maestro, a link with his country's great, but threatened, musical tradition, conducts with old-fashioned authority.

At the end of next month he will become Conductor Laureate, but the Czech repertoire which has loomed large in his work with the RLPO will continue under his compatriot, Petr Altrichter.

It was interesting to hear Pešek in an Austro-German programme of standard works, but there was nothing standard about his performance of Webern's *Pasacaglia*. Op. 1, which had cerebral clarity and poetic beauty.

Webern when performed like this is a good introduction to Brahms, especially when he is played with the soft-grained introspection Pešek brought to the Violin Concerto. The orchestra's mellow strings glowed warmly in the

RLPO/Pešek
Barbican

proved to be capable of big, gleaming tone, but he was a hard-nosed soloist with a very different approach to the piece from Pešek's in effect we heard two different interpretations, and at every turn the orchestra's seemed preferable. Only in the strongly accented Hungarian dance of the finale did the two strands come together.

The central European countryside evoked in Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* is something for which Pešek, a notable Dvořákian, has instinctive feel. His account was full of congenial spirit, every phrase was carefully shaped. Indeed, the RLPO now sounds more like a central European orchestra than an English one: the woodwind solos supplying the pastoral colouring had bright individuality, and the horns were splendidly incisive.

JOHN ALLEN

JOHN ALLISON

EVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no
ee) cc: 420 0000 (bkg fee)
SH, BRAVE & FUNNY!
Tatamash

**WOMEN ON
THE VERGE OF**

"HRT"
by Marie Jones
"THE SPIRIT OF SHIRLEY"
"INFINITE LIVES ON" Gdn
at 7.45pm, Thur & Sat at 3pm

JUST END 3 MAY

VICTORIA PALACE
0171 834 1317

ALWAYS
A NEW MUSICAL
Performances From 20 May

Mon-Sat at 7.30pm
 and Sat mats at 3.00pm

To advertise

ENTERTAINMENTS
: 0171 680 6222

AMS 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Standard Awards

BEST COMEDY
Best Actress
"ART"
 Best Play by Yasmina Reza

by Christopher Hampton
When or where just to see
1st New York Times
8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5

LONDON BREAKS

**BREAKFAST
HOUSE
ONCE**

ETS



59

1990-1991

State must comply

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6800

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Hordle Walhampton School

LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE

The merged Walhampton and Hordle House Schools from 1 September 1997
"We seek the good in the young and aim to educate the whole child"
Co-Educational Preparatory Boarding & Day 2-13 years



OPEN MORNING
Saturday 10 May 1997 - 10.00 am
Meet the Principal and the Staff
See the School at work

Please telephone the School Secretary on 01590-672013 for further information

Hordle Walhampton School Trust exists to provide a high quality Boarding & Day education for boys & girls aged 2-13 years. Charity Number 307330

ABERLOUR HOUSE

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

A TIME TO THINK
ABOUT
THEIR FUTURE

*Home from home
in a happy purposeful
atmosphere*

The School is set overlooking the river Spey in the grandeur of the Scottish Highlands. Interested parents who would like their children aged 8-13 to be educated in this unique and beautiful setting are asked to contact:

The Headmaster, Aberlour House
Aberlour, Banffshire AB36 9LJ
Tel: 01340 871267 Fax: 01340 871238

Aberlour House is a co-educational boarding & day school with charitable status founded solely for educational purposes

THE PILGRIMS' SCHOOL

WINCHESTER



Boys' Preparatory School (IAPS) for Boarders, Weekly Boarders and Dayboys. The School has a strong academic record and there are exceptional facilities for music. Boys are prepared for the Common Entrance Examination and Scholarships to senior independent schools, with a high proportion going to Winchester College. The School is situated in beautiful buildings in the Cathedral Close, with adjacent playing fields in the grounds of Wolvesey Palace. For further information, please contact The Headmaster, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9LT. Telephone: 01962 854189.

The Pilgrims' School is a registered charity (No. 307337) which exists to provide high quality education to boys aged 8 to 13.

MALDON COURT SCHOOL

(I.A.P.S. and I.S.I.S.)

Accredited by I.S.J.C. 1994

Joint Principals:

Anne & Tony Sutton

Headmaster: A.G. Webb, B.Ed.

We are a co-educational day school for children from 4 to 11 years old, preparing them for independent school entrances, the Eleven-Plus and the National Curriculum.

High academic and behaviour standards.

Listed as one of 29 top preparatory schools in the Sunday Times Good Primary and Preparatory Schools Guide 1996

The School is situated in a delightful and attractive setting. It has a reputation for a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Brochure available from the School upon request.

Maldon Court School, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4QE

Fax/Telephone: (01621) 853529

ST. ANTONY'S LEWESTON

SHERBORNE, DORSET, DT9 6EN

A CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT

BOARDING, FLEXI-BOARDING AND DAY

SCHOOL (GSA/GBSA) FOR GIRLS 11-18

Excellent facilities include:

• Senior Science Centre

• Design & Technology Centre

• Arts Studio

• Sports Hall, Swimming Pool & Multi-Gym

• Modern Health Centre

• Flourishing Sixth Form

Academic and Music scholarships available

For Prospects and entry details apply to The Headmistress

Telephone: 01963 210691

St Antony's-Leweston School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Cobham Hall

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 10 MAY 1997

9.30am to 12.30pm

THE ROUTE TO SUCCESS FOR GIRLS 11 TO 18 YEARS OLD

SEE the School in action

TALK to the staff and girls about success at GCSE and A Level

100% of leavers to University/College

100% pass rate in 16 A Level subjects

NEW Amated Places at 11+, 13+ & Sixth Form

LOWER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS (Ages 11+, 12+, 13+)

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS

Exciting after school and weekend activities

Swan Hampshire Dyslexia Centre

School Fee Advice

Join us for coffee - allow 15 hours for full escorted campus tour

Close to the M25 & M26 - adjacent to the M27 A2

Between Winchester & Gosport

For further information contact:

Sally Farnham, The Registrar, Cobham Hall, Cobham, Kent DA12 3BL

Telephone: 01474 83431 (093337) Fax: 01474 822995/824171

St. George's School

Windsor Castle

I.A.P.S. C.S.A.

A Preparatory Day and Boarding School for Girls and Boys 3-13

• Boarding for Boys (7-13 years)

• Boys' Christian Club in St George's Chapel

• One of the top 100 schools in the country

• Set in the Chapter Gardens and Home Park

• Purpose Built Nursery and Pre-Preparatory Department

• Extensive Sports Field

• Well equipped Gymnasium

• Indoor Pool

• High academic and musical record of achievement with scholarships to top independent schools

OPEN MORNINGS

Saturday 3rd May, 1997

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

For more information

The Headmaster

The Revd. Roger Marks

St George's School

Windsor Castle

Berkshire, SL4 1QF

Tel: 01753 845553

Fax: 01753 843093

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHORISTERS

CAMBRIDGE

Imagine singing and travelling the world in...

"One of the world's leading choirs"

The Times

And being educated at...

"An utterly wonderful Prep School"

The Girls' School Guide

St John's College offers Choristerships covering more than two thirds of the boarding and tuition fees to boys from age 7+.

If you would like to discuss your particular circumstances, contact The Registrar, Mrs Mary Rycroft, St John's College School, 83, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9AA or telephone on (01223) 353852 for further details.

There is such a thing as a 'free lunch'...

AT GORDONSTOUN SCHOOL

...there is also a 'free weekend' for your children

Over the weekend of 29th - 31st August 1997

We invite you to send any of your children planning senior school at 13+ in September 1998 or 1999 to spend a weekend with us and sample the Gordonstoun Experience. Parents will also be welcome to visit and tour the School - why not make it a family weekend?

For full details please contact:

The Headmaster, Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Moray IV30 2BP

Tel: 01343 830445 Fax: 01343 830651

E-mail: jtdhomas@rmplc.co.uk

Gordonstoun School is a co-educational boarding & day school with charitable status founded solely for educational purposes

Bedford School

(BMC Day and Boarding for Boys - Founded in 1552)

• Entry at all ages 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 by examination and interview

• Continuous curriculum through Preparatory and Upper schools

• High academic standards

98.7% pass rate at A level with 81.4% grade A-C, 97.0% pass rate at GCSE with 51.3% A* or A grade and 84.8% grade A* - B.

• Excellent Sports, Art, Drama and Music

• A caring boarding environment with a newly built Junior Boarding House and six Senior Boarding Houses

• Close relationship with Bedford High School for Girls and The Queen Alice Harpur School for Girls

For prospectus and entry information, contact Mrs Caroline Fox, The Registrar, Bedford School, De Pary Avenue, Bedford, MK44 2TL. Tel: 01294 340944 Fax: 01294 340959

Bedford School's objective is to provide high quality education for boys aged 7-18. Charity Number 204817

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

HELPLINE

The CPE Helpline provides free, objective and impartial advice on the courses offered by the independent, the accredited independent Sixth Form Colleges with the highest academic standards.

If you are looking:

• A change of school following GCSE

• A wider range of A Level subjects

• A Level revision

• Senior Revision for GCSE or A Level

• A Summer course to prepare you for the coming academic year

call the CPE Helpline on:

01233 820797

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

SECRETARY & REGISTRAR

Canterbury £50k plus

Following the appointment of Dr Timothy Mead as the Registrar of the University of Cambridge we now need a successor from September this year to make a full contribution to the future direction, operation and development of the University.

As a key member of the University Management Team you will be accountable for all academic administration and the provision of core services eg Estates and Buildings, Residential Services, Personnel. You will also act as Secretary to Court, Council, Senate and other Committees. The role is a complex one in this campus university of 7,000 full-time (8000+ FTE) students and 1,800 staff, with a very strong international focus.

You will need to have proven strategic and operational management experience in a complex organisation, not necessarily in the Higher Education sector. In addition we will be looking for evidence of successful change management, business acumen, and personal leadership.

Please telephone the Personnel Office for further particulars on (01227) 823674 (and Minicom) or (01227) 827837 (24 hours). Applications should be received by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robin Sibson, no later than Friday 23rd May 1997.



The University is committed to implementing an Equal Opportunities Policy.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

WANTED, SIXTEEN YEAR OLDS CAPABLE OF LEADING AN ARMY

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

We are looking for young men and women who would like to join the Army and who are aged 16-18 years old.

EDUCATION

Arts survive the generation gap

John O'Leary looks at a new study on attitudes to the arts in schools

Every report on the state of the arts in schools carries the message that the combined pressures of examination league tables and budget cuts are squeezing culture out of the curriculum.

However, a study published yesterday will come as a relief to those who see the arts as a vital part of a rounded education. Academics at Exeter University conclude that the subjects have maintained their popularity with pupils and appear to be giving at least as much satisfaction as they did 25 years ago.

The report, *The state of the arts*, acknowledges that its sample is small and not necessarily representative of the country. Although 2,500 pupils were involved, limited funding restricted the survey to only five schools, all of which are known for their work in the arts. But the parallels with a much larger study conducted in 1971 suggest that the findings are not out of line with other teenagers' views.

In the earlier research by the Schools Council, school leavers characterised art as "useless but interesting" and music as "useless and boring".

Pupils' answers in 1996 suggested that the four main subjects — art, dance, drama and music — had become more enjoyable, although there were significant differences in attitude between boys and girls and between age groups. As the table below illustrates, the pecking order of subjects remains almost unchanged.

Crafts, a label covering subjects as diverse as woodwork and home economics, were popular with almost three-quarters of secondary-school pupils in 1971. Technology, the present-day equivalent, achieved an almost identical rating, as did physical education in second place and, to a lesser extent, English in third.

So consistent were the ratings over the 25-year period that the report suggests that a "law of culture" operates in schools. "Either student priorities are immune to all attempts to reconstruct the curriculum, or the reforms of the past 25 years have not been as radical as might have been supposed."

Like other popularity surveys, the Exeter report shows a yawning gender gap in the attitudes to PE and English. Four out of five boys, but fewer than half the girls, favoured PE, with the ratings reversed for English. Mathematics gained in popularity, but science's ratings slipped, with physics the worst affected. Dance did not appear as a subject in 1971, but outscored

music in the latest survey. Again there was a gender gap, with almost 40 per cent of girls choosing dance, making it their fifth favourite subject, compared with only 6 per cent of boys.

When pupils were asked what they liked about the various subjects, differences between subjects became more obvious. Art, for example, had lower ratings for enjoyment, interest and scope for individual ideas than it did in 1971. The report suggests that the rise of design and technology might be partly responsible.

Drama, by contrast, was popular with both sexes. Although single-teacher departments placed a strain on staff and there was some fall-off in support from pupils after the age of 14, the subject was seen as more important and enjoyable than in 1971.

Music remained the arts subject attracting most negative comments from pupils. The report says: "What seems to be lacking is a curriculum in which making means playing rather than composing, and a pedagogy capable of engaging and sustaining the willing and active participation of all students."

Overall, however, the health of the arts, when measured in pupil feedback, appears to be strong. However, Malcolm Ross and Maria Kamba, the authors, believe that the non-statutory status of the arts beyond the age of 14 has placed them seriously at risk.

The problems are not all to do with money. Teachers interviewed for the study rated budget cuts last in a list of 18 influences on the quality of arts provision in their schools. The support of the head teacher was the key factor for most staff, while visiting artists were considered the biggest influence on quality.

The new climate in schools is seen by the authors as a significant obstacle. "Schools are in danger of becoming factories. The new ethos of schooling is not only alien to the arts but very possibly detrimental to the personal, spiritual, cultural and social development of children, and to the personal and professional well-being of teachers."

But modern teaching methods, so often the object of criticism, appear to be working in the arts, as far as the pupils are concerned. The report adds: "For girls and boys alike, the message for arts teachers seems clear: resist the killjoy curriculum."

State of the Arts, £10 from Malcolm Ross, University of Exeter School of Education, Haverhill Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.

MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS

Percentage of pupils rating each subject among their favourites.				
Subject	1971	%	Subject	1996
1.Crafts*		74.0	1.Technology*	
2.PE		67.0	2.PE	
3.English		53.0	3.English	
4.Science		50.0	4.Mathematics	
5.Art		43.0	5.Art	
6.Drama		39.5	6.Science	
7.Mathematics		36.0	7.Drama	
8.History		30.0	8.Geography	
9.Geography		28.0	9.History	
10.Foreign languages		27.0	10.Foreign languages	

* Crafts in 1971 included the full range of subjects then known as boys' and girls' crafts. To produce a matching sample, technology includes computing, media studies and craft, design and technology in 1996.



Magnus and Guy Johnston are both former King's College choristers and both study at Chetham's School, Manchester

Has music teaching lost the score?

Susan Elkin wonders how musically talented children will get the breaks they deserve

PRIVILEGED indeed is anyone who gets the chance to hear the 15-year-old cellist Guy Johnston playing Schubert's *Adagio* and *Allegro*, as I did recently at a recital in King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

Guy, a former King's College chorister, is now a pupil at Chetham's, the specialist music school in Manchester. He is the third child in an extraordinary musical family. His older brothers Rupert, 18, and Magnus, 17, were also both King's choristers. Their sister, Brittany, 12, studies at the Royal College of Music's Saturday school and is a promising violinist.

It is salutary to meet the Johnston family and to listen to them playing at a time when so many local authorities seem to be cutting instrumental teaching. David and Gill Johnston, the parents, are both music teachers and have given their children every encouragement, which has involved making financial sacrifices. Despite maximum grant aid, through the Government's scheme for talented children, they have to pay an annual bill of about £15,000 to keep Guy and Magnus at Chetham's.

What happens to musically gifted children who happen to be born to families that cannot afford even local music lessons?

When I started the violin at the age of seven in a London County Council primary school in the 1950s, it was free. Had I been especially talented, extra individual lessons

might have been arranged. Fat chance of that today.

As I write, there is a musical furor in Kent. Kent Music School (KMS) is the 49-year-old wing of Kent County Council which organises subsidised lessons for 15,000 children (and free ones for 750 children from low-income families), runs 24 local music centres and county orchestras and choirs. It also employs 450 people. KMS is threatened by a 30 per cent budget cut, which could lead to closure.

Michael Wearne, the director of KMS, says: "We are not the first to have to fight our corner. In some counties instrumental music teaching has already gone and in several others it is either under threat or soon will be. What is happening in Kent is just part of a trend."

The point is, of course, that adult musicians do not just happen fully formed. They can play as they do only because of decades of teaching, nurturing and encouragement throughout childhood. Musical

talent is no respecter of birth or social class. Johannes Brahms, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was born into poor family circumstances. What an unimaginable loss it would have been had teachers and patrons not discovered him.

And even those children, like the Johnstons, who have been taught largely outside the maintained-sector system need support. Guy Johnston — even more accomplished than Rupert, who is a student at Guildhall School of Music, or Magnus, who is aiming for Royal Northern College of Music — has been offered a place to study cello under Colin Carr at the New England Conservatory in Boston in two years' time. The cost is £24,000 a year for three years.

How many families, whatever sacrifices they make, can find that sort of money? Yet there is no grant assistance available for overseas study. The only hope is some sort of sponsorship offer.

Music education is in a muddle. We now seem to deny it altogether to the least well-off and penalise heavily those families who are a little better-off. Only the very wealthy can easily afford music lessons.

If we continue, music soon really will become the exclusive province of a tiny elite. Music is worth investing in. To destroy by default systems for developing it in young people from all backgrounds is a dreadful act of cultural vandalism.

Bet on the young, not the Lottery

Kevin Berry on the role of theatre in learning

FUNDING for the performing arts is nothing more than a lottery, and I ask no forgiveness for the pun. Reductions from the Arts Council and hard-pressed local authorities are leading to an even greater scramble for cash. Is there a theatre or touring company in the country that is not formulating a National Lottery application?

I am not altogether comfortable with the concept of subsidised theatre and the idea of money handed over simply because it has been asked for. But at the same time I am not that much of an enthusiast for cold-blooded market forces. I just have to see a theatre with empty seats; if I see an excellent play in a half-empty theatre, and then on my way home see bored teenagers hanging around the bus station, I feel angry. I have rarely seen youngsters in a theatre, and I mean youngsters who are not with their parents or part of a school party. Theatres are still the preserve of the middle class, although some do have excellent outreach programmes.

Some months ago I attended a meeting of theatre administrators and they were all bemoaning cuts in funding. It was as if arts funding is accepted as a right, with just the amount to be argued over and no thought of theatres doing something for the cash. The discussion got round to Theatre in Education funding and the need to subsidise children's tickets. "Children have a right to go to the theatre!" someone yelled. Shouts of agreement were lost in an angry condemnation of the lottery and the greed it has encouraged.

THAT phrase "Children have a right to go to the theatre" has been rattling round my brain ever since. Yes, they should have the right, and there is a way to ensure that they have it.

□ All children under 16 to have free admission to any theatre for any show, with the possible exception of pop concerts and pantomimes. Free admission to be also available to drama students and students of English literature, and anyone in full-time education who has a legitimate academic interest in seeing a show — a student of French wanting to see *Turn of Mind*, for instance.

□ Financing to come from the lottery coffers, and it should be the only lottery funding that theatres are allowed.

□ Scrap the present application system. Then, at the end of each month, a theatre sends in a breakdown of its box-office figures. Theatres are paid the full amount for seats "given" to children, with a percentage going to the touring company. They will then have the cash to pay for new equipment and buildings. No children equals no cash.

So, we create a new audience, we stimulate an interest in theatre among teenagers. I wonder how many youngsters have gone on a school trip to see the Shakespeare they are studying, seen an ad for an interesting show and then glanced at the prices and thought: "Blow that — it's a week's pocket money!"

The pressure will be on theatres to make themselves known to youngsters and to provide a welcome. Not too difficult, or is it?

● The author is a theatre critic



Bob Salisbury argues for a more radical approach to present financial problems

Schools face up to an underfunded future

If nothing else, the long run-up to the election has highlighted the critical distinction between dreams and reality in the educational debate. The political sparring has in some cases made good entertainment and it can be fun watching the protagonists duck and dive to make a "three-point emphasis" or to deliver the designer soundbite. But that is, until we remember the real consequences of these encounters.

The harsh reality facing schools in the future is that whichever party wins this particular race, all public-sector funding will continue to decline. In real terms the resources devoted to education are relatively low when compared to the amounts spent by other OECD countries, but even this dismal truth hides a much more worrying, wider long-term trend. Worldwide there seems to be an ever widening gap between the cost of running schools and the funding available from governments.

Rising expectations of schools inevitably mean that running them will become more costly. For example, our recent Ofsted report glibly stated that, in order fully to meet Government guidelines on the teaching of IT, we should provide a much better ratio of modern PC machines throughout the school. In a school which has worked

ceaselessly to raise extra money for hardware, comment such as this certainly sticks in the craw.

So what is to be done for financial survival in the next century? Of course everyone hopes that future governments will see sense and fund education properly, but until then what can schools do to ensure that youngsters do not have their life chances harmed? Many of the pragmatic strategies now being seen in schools are surely unsustainable in the long term.

Take, for instance, the trend towards rising class sizes. Not only is this bad news educationally, but there are limits to how far it can continue. Put bluntly, it just might be possible to teach 30, perhaps even 35, but even the very best performers would surely capitate when the numbers topped 40 or 50.

Given that funding will continue to decline, a more radical approach to the way our organisations are structured will be needed.

Eight years ago in my school we realised that mas-



Salisbury: new moves

sive and continuous change was underway in education and that this would not diminish in the future. Indeed, we felt the rate of change would increase and its precise direction was unpredictable. Our traditional hierarchical pyramid with its three deputies, senior teachers and heads of faculty was both expensive and slow and did not use fully the talent and expertise of all staff. Layers of management were removed, access given to

all information, people empowered to make decisions and a risk-taking culture encouraged. Sustained inertia was seen as the only crime.

Some of the money released from this restructuring was used to fund specific projects and staff were rewarded for leading these initiatives.

The main reason behind this philosophy was to establish a quick-response, entrepreneurial culture which motivated and excited people and which made use of all of the talent and skill in the organisation.

Reducing overall staffing costs was an added bonus and in an era of declining funding, we need to question how much longer schools can continue to operate with massive hierarchies. I regularly come across schools whose average staffing costs have risen to £8,000 per person, per year.

The payment of annual increments to teachers, often rewarding time in the job rather than actual performance of it, has a crucial bearing on staffing costs. Perhaps spot salaries with additional remuneration for

specific projects has to be the harsher way for the future.

What also is the future for national pay agreements? Health authorities have repeatedly demonstrated the tensions surrounding national agreements which take no account of the employer's ability to pay.

At the moment we are just managing these tensions, but for how long? What is certain is that in order to sustain development and to keep equipment levels up to date, many schools will have to move more into the financial "self help" world. It will be more commercial, will entail new skills, new flexibilities and the ability to think up imaginative schemes which will bring mutual benefits and generate new profit.

This may seem a gloomy picture with 35,000 schools, national and international charities, local worthy causes and other public sector organisations all competing for scarce resources, but what is the alternative?

Let us hope a future government will see the sense of investing properly in education. Everyone says a problem is not solved by throwing money at it — I, for one, wouldn't mind giving this solution a try.

● The author is the head of Garibaldi School, Mansfield.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT ST CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Twenty Assisted Places now available for September 1997

St Christopher has been awarded twenty places under the Assisted Places Scheme which provides for some able children from less well-off families to attend independent schools with broad educational opportunities, good exam results and strong sixth forms. The places are for children aged 9, 11, 13 and also at age 16 for direct entry to A level courses. No fees are payable for children from families with low incomes, with a sliding scale of contribution applying as parental income increases up to £26,000. The Assisted Places Scheme covers only day fees in a limited number of cases. Application should be made by 13 May to ensure consideration.

New technology Wing now open; new Sixth Form Centre opens September 1997

Before and after school care for younger children now available

Bus from North London now running; Cambridge bus planned

Open Days: Wednesday 23 April 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Friday 9 May 1.45pm for 2.00pm.

We are now interviewing for our 82nd annual intake of boys and girls into the three departments:

The Montessori Nursery School (for the term children turn 3 years old)

The Junior School (for 9 year olds)

The Senior School (for 11 and 13 year olds and for Sixth form entry)

St Christopher is a school with a rich mainstream curriculum but also a distinctive informal ethos and a purposeful and extensive programme of activities for our 300 day pupils and 160 boarders. If you are interested in the school for your child please send for an information pack (including our new prospectus, fees and exam results), and come to one of our open days or contact Susan Mellor (Admissions Secretary) to arrange a personal tour.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Letchworth, Herts SG6 3JZ

Tel: 01462 679301 Fax: 01462 481578

The School is an Educational Charity which aims to treat all children as individuals and to develop their proper self confidence

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

POSTS

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL

BURSAR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Salary: £35,000

Reading, Berkshire

Successful coeducational day and boarding Quaker school open to all, requires from Summer 1997 an experienced professional to manage and develop all non-academic aspects of the school.

The School

*Leighton Park provides broadly based education for 370 boys and girls aged 11-18, about 50% boarding. Its academic standing is shown by membership of Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

*Located adjacent to Reading University in 60 acres of parkland; £10M recent investment in new facilities.

The Position

*A key member of the management team reporting to the Head and Board of Governors.

*Responsible for the full business management of the school.

Qualifications

*Graduate calibre, probably aged 40-50, and having held a senior post in general management

*Good communicator with strong skills in team management

*Computer literate

*Willing to live on or close to the school campus; a house is available if required.

Further details

These may be obtained from The Head, John Duxton, Leighton Park School, Shillfield Road, Reading, RG2 7DB (Tel: 0118 987 2065, Fax: 0118 986 6959) to whom application should be made by 16 May 1997.

The Leighton Park Trust is a Registered Charity No. 309144

EDUCATION

CORNWALL COUNTY AUDIOLOGY SERVICE PERIPATETIC TEACHER OF THE DEAF ON THE TEACHERS PAY SPINE (POINTS 0-9) + FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

Following retirements and some re-organisation, applications are invited from Teachers holding a recognised qualification in the education of the deaf, and a full driving licence, for the post of Peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf based in Hayle in West Cornwall. The post is available from 1 September 1997.

The Cornwall Audiology Service is well established and highly regarded and is involved in many interesting initiatives in the education and assessment of pupils with all types and degrees of hearing impairment. There is also a high quality programme of in-service training and professional development for all staff.

The post will provide an attractive professional opportunity for a Teacher interested in developing or extending teaching and assessment skills with pupils of different ages.

Travel allowance according to JNC Scale. Teachers Pay Spine + 2 SEN points + 1 point for extra responsibilities for a suitably qualified candidate.

Further details and application forms from: Mrs Angela Alderman, Head of the County Audiology Service, Educational Audiology Centre, Priory Road, St Austell PL25 5AB. Telephone (text and voice) (01726) 61004/Fax: (01726) 63803.

Interviews: 12 and 13 May 1997.

Closing date: 2 May 1997.



WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



Chair of Law

An outstanding scholar with a strong research profile in any field of legal studies is sought for a new Chair in the Department of Law from 1 October 1997 or as soon as possible thereafter. A major interest in public law may be advantageous.

The salary will be by negotiation within the professorial range.

For an informal discussion of the post, please contact Professor Harvey Teff, tel: 0191 374 2032.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications (5 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees. (Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only).

Tel: 0191 374 3140, fax: 0191 374 7253, e-mail: smr.recruit@durham.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday, 23 May 1997. Please quote reference C045.

All Box number replies should be addressed to:
Box No. 100
C/o The Times
Newspapers
P.O. Box 3555,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA



Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication

Business Development Manager for Ravensbourne Ltd.

Bromley, Kent

£30k + PRP

The College, which is in the Higher Education sector, wishes to appoint a Business Development Manager to extend its commercial operations.

Ravensbourne Ltd, currently offers a range of part-time courses, mainly for the broadcasting industry, and the College seeks to appoint a young and ambitious Business Development Manager to expand the current work of the Company and examine the unexploited areas of development. This activity will involve building on the strengths of the Company and will require skills in business development, competitor analysis and strategic planning linked with an innovative approach to delivering commercial success.

This position offers an opportunity for real career development within the competitive market of Higher Education. A competitive salary is on offer combined with a performance related bonus.

If you feel that your experience meets the requirement of this demanding position, more details can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Ms Doreen de Bellotte, Ravensbourne College of Design & Communication, Walden Road, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5SN. Tel: 0181 289 4909.

Closing date for applications: Friday 9th May 1997.

Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

BRASENOSE COLLEGE OXFORD

Fixed-Term Teaching Fellowship in Law

The College wishes to appoint a Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Law with effect from 1st October 1997, or as soon as possible thereafter. The duties and rewards of the post have been tailored to suit someone with approximately half-time commitments elsewhere. The person appointed will be expected to teach up to six hours per week for the College during full term and to play an active part in the organisation and development of legal studies in the College. The appointment will be for a fixed period of three years, potentially renewable for a further two years. The College requires teaching in a range of subjects, but has a particular need for teaching in European Community Law.

Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, by Friday 16 May 1997. Applicants should ask three referees to send confidential references direct to the Senior Tutor by the same date. Further particulars, including details of stipend and other benefits, may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel: 01865 277823). We would welcome approaches from firms or organisations which might be interested in half-time secondment of suitably qualified and experienced lawyers.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Head

St Mary's School, Ascot

Roman Catholic girls' boarding school with outstanding academic results, seeks exceptional candidates for headship in September 1998, following the very successful 16 year tenure of Sister Frances Orchard IBVM.

THE SCHOOL

- ◆ Set in forty four acres of woodland close to Ascot, key motorways and airports, and with excellent facilities.
- ◆ An oversubscribed, full boarding school with a special family ethos and sense of community.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Graduate, preferably with a successful teaching record and management experience.
- ◆ Committed Roman Catholic in tune with the pastoral and academic requirements of young women.
- ◆ Some financial understanding is desirable. Good communicator with stamina, personality and presence.

For further information contact NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX, quoting ref ED703H1/T
Fax 0171 629 2077 Tel 0171 493 2220

Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City • Edinburgh • Glasgow

Leeds • London • Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

NBS Selection - Education



Selection and Search

ISO 9002 Registered

YARM SCHOOL Stockton-on-Tees

BURSAR

Yarm School is an independent HMC day school. It has 790 pupils, 260 boys aged 4-10 in the Preparatory School & Pre-Prep and 530 aged 11-18 in the Senior School, including Sixth Form girls.

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar to succeed Mr J H Wilson FCA who leaves at the end of the Summer Term.

Candidates will be expected to have proven senior experience in finance and administration and should be fully conversant with accounting methods involving information technology.

Further details of the post are available from The Clerk to the Governors, Yarm School, The Friarage, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, TS15 9EJ.

The closing date for applications is 9th May 1997.

Yarm School is a registered charity for the purpose of providing education. Number 507290

FETTES COLLEGE EDINBURGH



Bursar

The Governors of the Fettes Trust invite applications for the post of Bursar, who will have overall responsibility for the finances, administration and property of the school. The successful applicant will have a proven record of good administration, introduction of business systems, financial management and the control and management of projects. The candidate should be computer literate and used to the preparation of budgets and monitoring the results.

Applications (to be lodged by 9th May 1997) accompanied by C.V. and the names and addresses of two referees, to the Clerk to the Governors of the Fettes Trust, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LX (Tel: 0131 220 2345) from whom particulars of the post may be obtained.

BUSINESS COURSES

Secretarial
Travel
Hotel Administration
Public Relations & Advertising
Business Management



OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS COLLEGE
34 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LH
Tel: 01865 310100 Fax: 01865 310444

BUSINESS TRAINING IN THE HEART OF OXFORD

COURSES

INTERIOR DESIGN COURSES

By Distance Learning
Suitable for those who want to earn recognised qualifications

Free prospectus from: British International Design School, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

WANTED Sharp-eyed People

After a Chapterhouse training course we hope you will keep in touch.

Don't let us hear from you by post, by telephone or by fax. Don't just tell us your name, tell us what you can do for us.

Dear Chapterhouse:
I started to do the course whilst out of work. Soon after I received my last set of notes I became employed with a publisher and one of my main duties is proofreading our publications (a job I gained because of my interest in your course).

Dear Chapterhouse:
At long last I am sending you the Closing Assessment to be marked. I really enjoyed doing the course and I now work 3 days a week at a Publishing Co. on a freelance basis. Thank you very much for all your help and expertise. CD (9517)

Dear Chapterhouse:
Thank you very much for an extraordinary, if somewhat strenuous, copy editing course. I have already managed to get a few freelance jobs with an Oxford Publisher, so I think it was definitely worth the effort!

Full training from professional publishers by correspondence course or by seminar

from only £39.00 for a full proofreading course. Free Prospectus including lots of success stories from Chapterhouse, 2 Southwark Way, Epsom EX1 1XJ. Phone: (01392) 499485 Fax: (01392) 498006

CHAPTERHOUSE
6 Years Successful Training

CARTOONING FOR PROFIT

Make money from your cartooning and illustration skills. Study from home for a new career or a profitable second income. 0800 371 500

Make £20,000 as a Travel Writer

This free Newsletter and prospectus shows you exactly how to become a Freelance Travel Writer. 0800 371 500

LANGUAGE COURSES

GERMAN
DAY INTENSIVE
COURSES
Dates: 6-30.5.97-27.6.97
7-27.7.97-4.8.97
at the German Cultural Centre

GOETHE
INSTITUT
LONDON

50 Princes Gate
(Exhibition Road)
London SW7 2PR
Tel: 0171 411 3451
Fax: 0171 394 0210

BUSINESS COURSES

Take your career further with an MBA/MSc. (Distance no object.)

John O'Grada
The Electronic Campus at The University of Paisley means you can study at home, in your own time and at your own pace, wherever you live in Britain. And, uniquely, you'll still enjoy close, interactive links with students and course leaders. Courses starting May '97:

- MBA MARKETING
- MBA TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
- MSc QUALITY MANAGEMENT
- MSc COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING
- BSc HEALTH STUDIES

For more details call The Distance Learning Unit on 0141 848 3821 or fax us on 0141 848 3847. email: mhr.murray@paisley.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF PAISLEY

SNOOKER

White's nights of Crucible battles could be at an end

By PHIL YATES

THE Embassy world championship without Jimmy White is like the Open Championship without Jack Nicklaus, but the possibility exists that the player most synonymous with Crucible. The heartache will be missing from the event 12 months hence.

White's 10-9 defeat by Anthony Hamilton late on Wednesday, after a gripping first-round battle, guaranteed his relegation from the game's top 16 after a 15-year spell.

Unthinkably, White, six times the runner-up at the championship but never the winner, will be required to negotiate a qualifying match in order to return next year. In addition, he must also qualify for the final stages of all overseas world ranking tournaments.

White's third failure to clear his opening hurdle in 17 visits to the Crucible was a fitting culmination to a season in which he has suffered personal, financial and professional turmoil. While still coming to terms with the death of his brother and, a few months later, his mother, White was declared bankrupt over an inland revenue debt.

He lost his first 11 outings of the campaign and, after an unexpected defeat at the hands of Dylan Leary at the Regal Welsh Open in January, he slipped to 36th in the provisional standings. Appearances in the quarter-finals of the International Open and the last 16 of the European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks suggested that his best form of the year could coincide with his arrival in Sheffield, but that did not transpire.

When White artistically constructed a 125 clearance on the

way to leading 6-3, then moved 8-4 ahead, a second-round match against John Parrott beckoned, but Hamilton then outscored him 351-31 in winning the next four frames to level at 8-8.

In the deciding, White led 37-13, but, in escaping a snooker, he presented Hamilton with a clear opportunity. Capitalising to the full, he constructed a 54 break to earn a top 16 place of his own.

The loser's cheque for £9,450 swelled White's total prize-money for 1996-97 to £68,475. That represents the poorest remuneration that he has received for a season since turning professional after becoming world amateur champion in 1980.

"I'm convinced Jimmy will bounce straight back into the top ten: he's hitting the ball as well as ever; he just needs a bit of self-belief again," Hamilton said, offering words of encouragement. However, it remains to be seen whether White will

return from snooker's lengthy summer recess thinking quite so positively.

Steve Davis, a contemporary of White who is holding back the tide of youth to greater effect, believes that a fitness regime would be of immense benefit for the player with whom he battled for supremacy throughout the 1980s. "Looking at Jimmy, I think that could be a solution," Davis said. "It's helped me enormously and it could do the same for him."

"As you get older, you have to use anything you can stay up there. There's nothing wrong with his game, his temperament or his approach, so he's got to look at what else there is. Being fit doesn't make you pot more balls, but it makes you feel better."

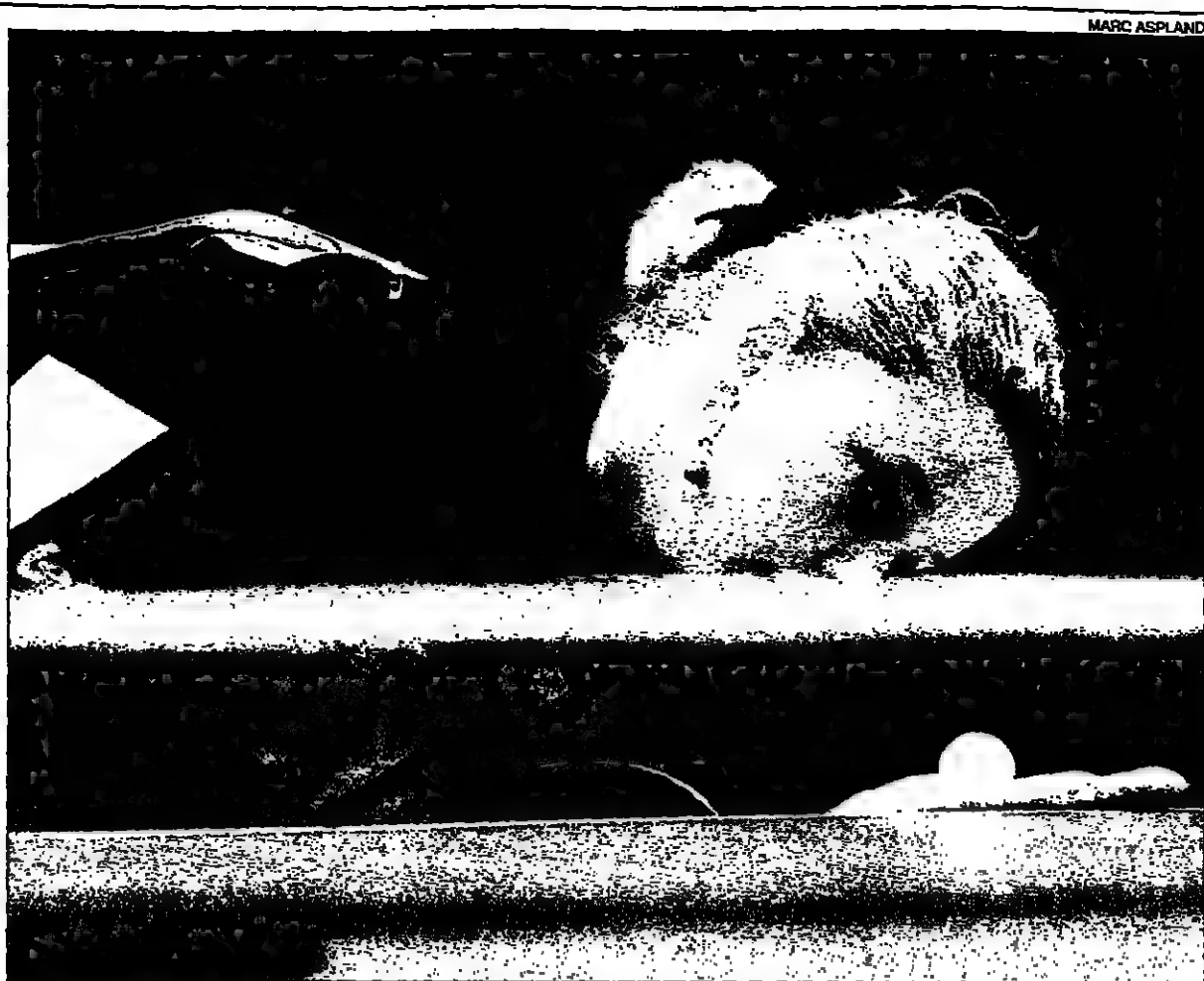
James Wattana, the No 12 seed, was fully extended before edging past Graeme Dott 10-9. Wattana, from Thailand, who compiled a 53 break in the deciding to seal victory after Dott had missed a tricky red to a middle pocket, goes forward to face Stephen Lee, the conqueror of Nigel Bond.

Leading 7-4 and 51-0 in the twelfth frame, Wattana was cruising. Dott, 19, the youngest competitor in the final stages of the championship this year, stole it on the blue and forged 8-7 ahead, but, as the finishing line drew closer, he became increasingly prone to unforced errors.

The second round got underway yesterday, with Lee Walker and Alan McManus sharing the first of their three sessions 4-4.



White elite no longer



Cecilia Ozer, of Belgium, prepares to serve during her first-round defeat by Galina Melnik, of Russia

Syed offers reasons to be cheerful

By RICHARD EATON

RARELY has a sporting story offered as many twists and sub-plots as did the opening day of the world table tennis championships in Manchester yesterday. With 44 tables open in simultaneous use, three players in the world's top ten were beaten, Sweden's hopes of regaining the men's team title suffered a scare and two fine wins for Matthew Syed helped England to an encouraging 3-1 win over the Czech Republic as they began their campaign for survival in the top group of the 108-nation tournament.

Ding Song, the defensively-minded world No 7 from China, was sensationally

beaten by Robert Smrek, of Slovenia, but there was still never a likelihood of the world champions being beaten; England's women were beaten 3-1 as Lithuania avenged themselves for their defeat in the last world championships in Tianjin; and two well-known brothers suffered a rare contrast in fortunes. You needed eyes in the back of your head to keep up with it all.

Jean-Michel Saive, the world No 1 only 15 months ago, was beaten twice by Belarus threatened to upset the powerful Belgians, but the younger Philippe Saive, so often overshadowed by Jean-Michel, enjoyed two big wins, one of them against the most-improved

player of 1996, the world No 4 Vladimir Sampsonov, and Belgium sneaked home 3-2. They are good enough to cause anyone problems.

Sweden won 3-1, but this match nearly went the full distance. The coach, Ulf Carlsson, is so concerned to rest his brilliant but ailing stars that he risked leaving out both the former Olympic champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, and the former European bronze medal-winner, Peter Karlsson. One of the replacements, Thomas Von Scheel, lost, and another, Kayode Kadiri, almost did, threatening to allow the match to go rather shakily to a final encounter. Fortunately for them, Jorgen Persson, the former world champion,

was in solid form, winning twice.

While the defeat for England's women was disappointing, with Lisa Lomas, the former European championship silver medal-winner, looking uncomfortable and losing twice, Syed, last week's winner of the Commonwealth men's championship, was determinedly effective, as was Alan Cooke, the runner-up in the Commonwealth tournament, looping his topspin energetically to beat Josef Plachy. Syed outmanoeuvred the fierce-hitting Richard Vybny and the Olympic semi-finalist, Petr Korbel. It was a good start, but there is still a long way to go to ensure survival.

IN BRIEF

O'Leary is called up by England

DAREN O'LEARY, the Harlequins wing, yesterday became the fifteenth uncapped player in the 30-strong England rugby union party for the six-match tour of Argentina next month.

Jack Rowell, the England coach, named 29 players last week and opted for O'Leary to fill the final wing place on the basis of his 26 tries this season. He was first included in the England squad in 1993, but has made only one England A appearance.

Bowls: David Courlay, from Prestwick, faced two of Australia's best bowlers, winning one match and losing another, at the Mazda Jack High international tournament, in Sydney, yesterday. Courlay started with a straight-sets victory over Ian Taylor, but was then beaten 7-9 by Steve Glasson, a 28-year-old greenkeeper.

Squash: England's women look set for a 20th successive win in the Dunlop Europe team championships in Odense, Denmark, today after defeating Holland 3-0 in the first semi-final yesterday. The England men also progressed safely to a semi-final against Finland today.

Motor rallying: The course for the RAC Rally this year will be the shortest in the history of the event. The rally, which has been reinstated as a world championship event, runs from November 23-25 and will omit the gruelling Kielder Forest section in the Scottish Borders, which claimed many leading contenders in 1996.

Basketball: Mike Burton, of Chester Jets, became one of the few Englishmen to be named coach of the year when the Budweiser League made its annual awards yesterday. John White, of Leopards, was named the most valuable player in the league.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.50 Timekeeper, 2.55 Periscope, 3.25 Spanish Verdict, 4.00 Not Forgotten, 4.30 Count Tony, 5.05 Milder Westwood.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.05 GREY KINGDOM.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES)

DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 TALBOT MAIDEN STAKES (3.10E, 5f) (9 runners)

BLACK EYE (1) 10.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00, 31.00, 32.00, 33.00, 34.00, 35.00, 36.00, 37.00, 38.00, 39.00, 40.00, 41.00, 42.00, 43.00, 44.00, 45.00, 46.00, 47.00, 48.00, 49.00, 50.00, 51.00, 52.00, 53.00, 54.00, 55.00, 56.00, 57.00, 58.00, 59.00, 60.00, 61.00, 62.00, 63.00, 64.00, 65.00, 66.00, 67.00, 68.00, 69.00, 70.00, 71.00, 72.00, 73.00, 74.00, 75.00, 76.00, 77.00, 78.00, 79.00, 80.00, 81.00, 82.00, 83.00, 84.00, 85.00, 86.00, 87.00, 88.00, 89.00, 90.00, 91.00, 92.00, 93.00, 94.00, 95.00, 96.00, 97.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00, 101.00, 102.00, 103.00, 104.00, 105.00, 106.00, 107.00, 108.00, 109.00, 110.00, 111.00, 112.00, 113.00, 114.00, 115.00, 116.00, 117.00, 118.00, 119.00, 120.00, 121.00, 122.00, 123.00, 124.00, 125.00, 126.00, 127.00, 128.00, 129.00, 130.00, 131.00, 132.00, 133.00, 134.00, 135.00, 136.00, 137.00, 138.00, 139.00, 140.00, 141.00, 142.00, 143.00, 144.00, 145.00, 146.00, 147.00, 148.00, 149.00, 150.00, 151.00, 152.00, 153.00, 154.00, 155.00, 156.00, 157.00, 158.00, 159.00, 160.00, 161.00, 162.00, 163.00, 164.00, 165.00, 166.00, 167.00, 168.00, 169.00, 170.00, 171.00, 172.00, 173.00, 174.00, 175.00, 176.00, 177.00, 178.00, 179.00, 180.00, 181.00, 182.00, 183.00, 184.00, 185.00, 186.00, 187.00, 188.00, 189.00, 190.00, 191.00, 192.00, 193.00, 194.00, 195.00, 196.00, 197.00, 198.00, 199.00, 200.00, 201.00, 202.00, 203.00, 204.00, 205.00, 206.00, 207.00, 208.00, 209.00, 210.00, 211.00, 212.00, 213.00, 214.00, 215.00, 216.00, 217.00, 218.00, 219.00, 220.00, 221.00, 222.00, 223.00, 224.00, 225.00, 226.00, 227.00, 228.00, 229.00, 230.00, 231.00, 232.00, 233.00, 234.00, 235.00, 236.00, 237.00, 238.00, 239.00, 240.00, 241.00, 242.00, 243.00, 244.00, 245.00, 246.00, 247.00, 248.00, 249.00, 250.00, 251.00, 252.00, 253.00, 254.00, 255.00, 256.00, 257.00, 258.00, 259.00, 260.00, 261.00, 262.00, 263.00, 264.00, 265.00, 266.00, 267.00, 268.00, 269.00, 270.00, 271.00, 272.00, 273.00, 274.00, 275.00, 276.00, 277.00, 278.00, 279.00, 280.00, 281.00, 282.00, 283.00, 284.00, 285.00, 286.00, 287.00, 288.00, 289.00, 290.00, 291.00, 292.00, 293.00, 294.00, 295.00, 296.00, 297.00, 298.00, 299.00, 300.00, 301.00, 302.00, 303.00, 304.00, 305.00, 306.00, 307.00, 308.00, 309.00, 310.00, 311.00, 312.00, 313.00, 314.00, 315.00, 316.00, 317.00, 318.00, 319.00, 320.00, 321.00, 322.00, 323.00, 324.00, 325.00, 326.00, 327.00, 328.00, 329.00, 330.00, 331.00, 332.00, 333.00, 334.00, 335.00, 336.00, 337.00, 338.00, 339.00, 340.00, 341.00, 342.00, 343.00, 344.00, 345.00, 346.00, 347.00, 348.00, 349.00, 350.00, 351.00, 352.00, 353.00, 354.00, 355.00, 356.00, 357.00, 358.00, 359.00, 360.00, 361.00, 362.00, 363.00, 364.00, 365.00, 366.00, 367.00, 368.00, 369.00, 370.00, 371.00, 372.00, 373.00, 374.00, 375.00, 376.00, 377.00, 378.00, 379.00, 380.00, 381.00, 382.00, 383.00, 384.00, 385.00, 386.00, 387.00, 388.00, 389.00, 390.00, 391.00, 392.00, 393.00, 394.00, 395.00, 396.00, 397.00, 398.00, 399.00, 400.00, 401.00, 402.00, 403.00, 404.00, 405.00, 406.00, 407.00, 408.00, 409.00, 410.00, 411.00, 412.00, 413.00, 414.00, 415.00, 416.00, 417.00, 418.00, 419.00, 420.00, 421.00, 422.00, 423.00, 424.00, 425.00, 426.00, 427.00, 428.00, 429.00, 430.00, 431.00, 432.00, 433.00, 434.00, 435.00, 436.00, 437.00, 438.00, 439.00, 440.00, 441.00, 442.00, 443.00, 444.00, 445.00, 446.00, 447.00, 448.00, 449.00, 450.00, 451.00, 452.00, 453.00, 454.00, 455.00, 456.00, 457.00, 458.00, 459.00, 460.00, 461.00, 462.00, 463.00, 464.00, 465.00, 466.00, 467.00, 468.00, 469.00, 470.00, 471.00, 472.00, 473.00, 474.00, 475.00, 476.00, 477.00, 478.00, 479.00, 480.00, 481.00, 482.00, 483.00, 484.00, 485.00, 486.00, 487.00, 488.00, 489.00, 490.00, 491.00, 492.00, 493.00, 494.00, 495.00, 496.00, 497.00, 498.00, 499.00, 500.00, 501.00, 502.00, 503.00, 504.00, 505.00, 506.00, 507.00, 508.00, 509.00, 510.00, 511.00, 512.00, 513.00, 514.00, 515.00, 516.00, 517.00, 518.00, 519.00, 520.00, 521.00, 522.00, 523.00, 524.00, 525.00, 526.00, 527.00, 528.00, 529.00, 530.00, 531.00, 532.00, 533.00, 534.00, 535.00, 536.00, 537.00, 538.00, 539.00, 540.00, 541.00, 542.00, 543.00, 544.00, 545.00, 546.00, 547.00, 548.00, 549.00, 550.00, 551.00, 552.00, 553.00, 554.00, 555.00, 556.00, 557.00, 558.00, 559.00, 560.00, 561.00, 562.00, 563.00, 564.00, 565.00, 566.00, 567.00, 568.00, 569.00, 570.00, 571.00, 572.00, 573.00, 574.00, 575.00, 576.00, 577.00, 578.00, 579.00, 580.00, 581.00, 582.00, 583.00, 584.00, 585.00, 586.00, 587.00, 588.00, 589.00, 590.00, 591.00, 592.00, 593.00, 594.00, 595.00, 596.00, 597.00, 598.00, 599.00, 600.00, 601.00, 602.00, 603.00, 604.00, 605.00, 606.00, 607.00, 608.00, 609.00, 610.00, 611.00, 612.00, 613.00, 614.00, 615.00, 616.00, 617.00, 618.00, 619.00, 620.00, 621.00, 622.00, 623.00, 624.00, 625.00, 626.00, 627.00, 628.00, 629.00, 630.00, 631.00, 632.00, 633.00, 634.00, 635.00, 636.00, 637.00, 638.00, 639.00, 640.00, 641.00, 642.00, 643.00, 644.00, 645.00, 646.00, 647.00, 648.00, 649.00, 650.00, 651.00, 652.00, 653.00, 654.00, 655.00, 656.00, 657.00, 658.00, 659.00, 660.00, 661.00, 662.00, 663.00, 664.00, 665.00, 666.00, 667.00, 668.00, 669.00, 670.00, 671.00, 672.00, 673.00, 674.00, 675.00, 676.00, 677.00, 678.00, 679.00, 680.00, 681.00, 682.00, 683.00, 684.00, 685.00, 686.00, 687.00, 688.00, 689.00, 690.00, 691.00, 692.00, 693.00, 694.00, 695.00, 696.00, 697.00, 698.00, 699.00, 700.00, 701.00, 702.00, 703.00, 704.00, 705.00, 706.00, 707.00, 708.00, 709.00, 710.00, 711.00, 712.00, 713.00, 714.00, 715.00, 716.00, 717.00, 718.00, 719.00, 720.00, 721.00, 722.00, 723.00, 724.00, 725.00, 726.00, 727.00, 728.00, 729.00, 730.00, 731.00, 732.00, 733.00, 734.00, 735.00, 736.00, 737.00, 738.00, 739.00, 740.00, 741.00, 742.00, 743.00, 744.00, 745.00, 746.00, 747.00, 748.00, 749.00, 750.00, 751.00, 752.00, 753.00, 754.00, 755.00, 756.00, 757.00, 758.00, 759.00, 760.00, 761.00, 762.00, 763.00, 764.00, 765.00, 766.00, 767.00, 768.00, 769.00, 770.00, 771.00, 772.00, 773.00, 774.00, 775.00, 776.00, 777.00, 778.00, 779.00, 780.00, 781.00, 782.00, 783.00, 784.00, 785.00, 786.00, 787.00, 788.00, 789.00, 790.00, 791.00, 792.00, 793.00, 794.00, 795.00, 796.00, 797.00, 798.00, 799.00, 800.00, 801.00, 802.00, 803.00, 804.00, 805.00, 806.00, 807.00, 808.00, 809.00, 810.00, 811.00, 812.00, 813.00, 814.00, 815.00, 816.00, 817.00, 818.00, 819.00, 820.00, 821.00, 822.00, 823.00, 824.00, 825.00, 826.00, 827.00, 828.00, 829.00, 830.00, 831.00, 832.00, 833.00, 834.00, 835.00, 836.00, 837.00, 838.00, 839.00, 840.00, 841.00, 842.00, 843.00, 844.00, 845.00, 846.00, 847.00, 848.00, 849.00, 850.00, 851.00, 852.00, 853.00, 854.00, 855.00, 856.00, 857.00, 858.00, 859.00, 860.00, 861.00, 862.00, 863.00, 864.00, 865.00, 866.00, 867.00, 868.00, 869.00, 870.00, 871.00, 872.00, 873.00, 874.00, 875.00, 876.00, 877.00, 878.00, 879.00, 880.00, 881.00, 882.00, 883.00, 884.00, 885.00, 886.00, 887.00, 888.00, 889.00, 890.00, 891.00, 892.00, 893.00, 894.00, 895.00, 896.00, 897.00, 898.00, 899.00, 900.00, 901.00, 902.00, 903.00, 904.00, 905.00, 906.00, 907.00, 908.00, 909.00, 910.00, 911.00, 912.00, 913.00, 914.00, 915.00, 916.00, 917.00, 918.00, 919.00, 920.00, 921.00, 922.00, 923.00, 924.00, 925.00, 926.00, 927.00, 928.00, 929.00, 930.00, 931.00, 932.00, 933.00, 934.00, 935.00, 936.00, 937.00, 938.00, 939.00, 940.00, 941.00, 942.00, 943.00, 944.00, 945.00, 946.00, 947.00, 948.00, 949.00, 950.00, 951.00, 952.00, 953.00, 954.00, 955.00, 956.00, 957.00, 958.00, 959.00, 960.00, 961.00, 962.00, 963.00, 964.00, 965.00, 966.00, 967.00, 968.00, 969.00, 970.00, 971.00, 972.00, 973.00, 974.00, 975.00, 976.00, 977.00, 978.00, 979.00, 980.00, 981.00, 982.00, 983.00, 984.00, 985.00, 986.00, 987.00, 988.00, 989.00, 990.00, 991.00, 992.00, 993.00, 994.00, 995.00, 996.00, 997.00, 998.00, 999.00, 1000.00, 1001.00, 1002.00, 1003.00, 1004.00, 1005.00, 1006.00, 1007.00, 1008.00, 1009.00, 1010.00, 1011.00, 1012.00, 1013.00, 1014.00, 1015.00, 1016.00, 1017.00, 1018.00, 1019.00, 1020.00, 1021.00, 1022.00, 1023.00, 1024.00, 1025.00, 1026.00, 1027.00, 1028.00, 1029.00, 1030.00, 1031.00, 1032.00, 1033.00, 1034.00, 1035.00, 1036.00, 1037.00, 1038.00, 1039.00, 1040.00, 1041.00, 1042.00, 1043.00, 1044.00, 1045.00, 1046.00, 1047.00, 1048.00, 1049.00, 1050.00, 1051.00, 1052.00, 1053.00, 1054.00, 1055.00, 1056.00, 1057.00, 1058.00, 1059.00, 1060.00, 1061.00, 1062.00, 1063.00, 1064.00, 1065.00, 1066.00, 1067.00, 1068.00, 1069.00, 1070.00, 1071.00, 1072.00, 1073.00, 1074.00, 1075.00, 1076.00, 1077.00, 1078.00, 1079.00, 1080.00, 1081

FOOTBALL

Cole's net failure gives Ferguson scope to reshuffle

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

IT WAS ten days ago, between the two 1-0 defeats by Borussia Dortmund which ended Manchester United's latest attempt to win the European Cup, that Alex Ferguson, their manager, bounded on to a stage at the Grosvenor House Hotel, in London, with an envelope in his hands and three names to read out.

As guest of honour at the Professional Footballers' Association annual dinner, he was about to announce the association's player of the year, and a very smile spread across his face when he came to the identity of the winner. "It's Alan Shearer," he said. "I've tried to sign him twice. He's the only player I'd break the bank for."

In the empty shell of Old Trafford, late on Wednesday, Ferguson's words seemed to be booming out across the stadium like a great lament for the missing ingredient that could have taken United on to Munich to face Juventus in the final on May 28.

Even allowing for the fact that they fell behind to an early goal from Lars Ricken, even allowing for the superb last-ditch defending of the unbreachable Jürgen Kohler, United went on to create so many chances that they should have been able to outrun their guests even if Dortmund had scored twice in the Theatre of Dreams.

Instead, when opportunity knocked, United recoiled. Cantona was guilty of two abject misses. Pallister was wide with a simple header. Cole shot twice into the side-netting when he should have scored, and Giggs, still embarrassingly one-footed for a right-footed player, sliced a touch-foot volley horribly wide.

As Ferguson pointed out, it was not that United were outplayed or out-thought by Dortmund in either leg. Far

from it. They went at them like a whirlwind and they should have torn them down, but they had nobody to finish the openings that they made. With Shearer in the team — perhaps even with Les Ferdinand, Ian Wright or Robbie Fowler — they would have been preparing for the final now.

Apart from the issue of whether Cantona is now past his best and, furthermore, going downhill fast, United also seem to be in danger of slipping back into the situation that dogged Ron Atkinson for so long while he was in charge: not having a goal-poaching striker capable of scoring 30 goals a season. Cole was supposed to be the solution to that problem when he was brought from Newcastle United for £7 million, but, dogged by lack of confidence and injury, he has performed only fitfully. Ironically, against Dortmund on Wednesday and against Liverpool last Saturday, he looked sharp and hungry. United's most threatening presence, but still there is a suspicion that, at European level in particular, his touch will let him down.

Gradually, his admirers are

saying, Cole is becoming a more complete footballer, but that is not what United bought him for. They bought him to be a predatory striker, not a creator for others, and, despite Ferguson's admirable loyalty towards him, the time may be coming when he will listen to offers from other clubs. Ole Gunnar Solskjær, too, has performed creditably in his first year in English football, well enough in tandem with Cole and Cantona to take United to the brink of their fourth FA Cup Premier title in five years. In European terms, though, he is still learning his trade and his was a peripheral presence on Wednesday.

Ferguson, however, was in a cheerful, upbeat mood yesterday, full of hope for an assault on the Champions' League next season, confident that only slight modifications are needed to push United towards winning the trophy on the thirtieth anniversary of the triumph of Best, Charlton and the rest.

"I am not considering making wholesale changes," Ferguson said. "When you analyse our games in Europe, we lost five matches 1-0. Three of them were deflected goals and one was a penalty, so how far away are we?"

There will be changes and some will come from within. Others may come from outside, but the players know that is not a criticism of them. The bus stop moves on to the next stop. That is nothing new here.

"We know we should be going to the European Cup final. I sat up watching the video and it was like watching the video of a whole season — we missed so many chances."

In the light of that, "How far away are we?" suddenly becomes a lot simpler to answer: Just as far away as a striker who would break the bank.

Cole: two bad misses



Di Canio, shadowed by two Falkirk defenders, was one of the few Celtic players able to handle the pressure

Burns left waiting for axe to fall

By Kevin McCarron

IT WAS fitting that Celtic's perfunctory performance in their 1-0 defeat by Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final replay should meet with a token protest. At full-time on Wednesday, their supporters booed briefly, but showed a greater desire to be away from Ibrox, out of the rain and far from the shame.

Although the emotional reaction was deep, it did not encompass rage. Instead, there was sadness among fans who had seen Celtic flunk yet another test and regret that one of the club's most favoured figures will almost certainly be discarded. Tommy Burns, appointed as manager in 1994, must have suffered the last failure of his tenure.

There will, all the same, be no leave-taking for the moment. Ferguson, the managing director, merely

confirmed that the plan to review operations in the close season had not been altered by the defeat. Burns himself has no intention of slipping away quietly.

"I will not be resigning," he said. "I can either walk away or stay and try and change it. I intend to stay and change it." The decision, however, is not in his own hands. Instead of sacking Burns, Celtic need only wait until his contract expires in the summer and then decline to renew it.

The only hope for Burns is that another job could be found for him in a revamped structure at Celtic. There is a faint possibility that he will benefit from a residue of affection. His team has often been entertaining and his engaging personality has given the club an appealing public face. His record, however, conceals progress rather than demonstrating it. Celtic lost the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup to

Raith Rovers, a club then resident in the Bell's Scottish League first division. Falkirk, too, live in that humble milieu. The Scottish Cup of 1995 is the only trophy so far collected by Burns. Rangers are about to take the premier division title for a ninth successive year.

The financial resurgence of Celtic, with their 40,000 season ticket-holders, makes the pitfalls of the team all the more difficult for supporters and directors to tolerate. Each failure intensifies the strain on the players. Burns attempted to halt that escalating anxiety by replacing the squad he inherited with fresh, untainted signings, but they, too, have become trapped in the syndrome.

On Wednesday, after they had fallen behind to Paul McGillen's well-worked equaliser, Celtic's attempts to equalise were poisoned by alarm. Falkirk enjoyed a little

luck, but the team from Brockville were never close to being overwhelmed.

The weakness of Falkirk can be exaggerated, and their side is hardly to be treated as amateurs. Seven of its members have played in the premier division and the splendid Andy Gray was once capped by England.

Victory over a Falkirk team that now meets Kilmarnock in the final would, for all that, have been the inevitable consequence of even a moderate performance by Celtic. "We live or die by success and, unfortunately, some of the players can't handle that pressure," Burns admitted.

This frail team, in which only Paolo Di Canio's display evoked self-belief, was, though, built by the manager at a cost of some £15 million. The problems of remedying the ills are great, but it is a challenge that Burns will surely not survive to meet.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
CLERGY: 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA
SOCIETY: 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
Australian Mutual Provident Society (Including the London Life Fund)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
Australian Mutual Provident Society (Including the London Life Fund)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
Australian Mutual Provident Society (Including the London Life Fund)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
Australian Mutual Provident Society (Including the London Life Fund)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

Gresley spy silver lining

Non-League Football by Keith Pike

A NEW home awaits Gresley Rovers, and a new trophy to adorn a pristine boardroom. Yet a season that promises to end in triumph will be tinged with regret. The modern curse of non-league football — clubs with excellent teams but outdated facilities — has struck once again.

Barring an extraordinary twist in the closing week of the season, Gresley will secure the Dr Martens League premier division championship, yet the biggest prize of all, a place in the Vauxhall Conference, is denied them. At Moat Street, where a full house of 2,000 is expected to cheer Gresley across the finishing line tomorrow, euphoria and anticlimax are the order of the day.

The silverware would be Gresley's if they avoided defeat against Gloucester City, whose own long pursuit of the title has faded amid an exhausting end-of-season run-in. Gresley might even kick-off with the championship already

ready theirs — Gloucester needed to win their home match against Atherstone United last night to retain even a mathematical interest — yet the move to a purpose-built ground two miles away, expected to be completed a couple of months into next season, has come too late.

"We found out in September that we could not go into the Conference and the players and myself were bitterly disappointed," Paul Fletcher, the Gresley player-manager, said. "We all want to operate at the highest level we can, but all we could do was our best on the pitch and week-in, week-out, the players have responded brilliantly. If we win the title, it would be a hell of an achievement."

Still playing at 40 after a 30-year, eight-club career through the senior divisions, Fletcher is confident that he will retain the majority of his squad for a fresh challenge next season. "The move to a

new ground is a massive step in the right direction," he said. "Inevitably, Gresley's situation has given Gloucester and Cheltenham Town grounds for optimism. They are neck-and-neck in the race to finish runners-up, the prize for which is the elevation denied the champions-elect."

They know all about tainted triumphs in the Vauxhall Conference, too, where the champions have been refused a place in the Football League for three successive seasons. That trio of clubs has staged a season-long contest to make amends that could be resolved tomorrow.

After their demolition of Woking on Tuesday and Stevenage Borough's surrender of two points against Gateshead the next day, Macclesfield Town will be champions if they beat Bromsgrove Rovers while Kidderminster Harriers and Stevenage lose to Southport and Salford City respectively.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

1) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
2) To discuss the report on London Life's operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
3) To note that Messrs M.R. Bates and G.R. Truswell will retire by rotation on 1 July 1997 and that the UK Board of AMP & London Life, and have indicated to the Principal Board that they are prepared to be reappointed. (See note 5).

4) To note that Mr. C.S.S. Lyon FIA will retire from the UK Board of AMP & London Life at the conclusion of the meeting and that Mr. C.D. Lever FIA will be appointed to the UK Board of AMP & London Life at that time. By order of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and London Life.
S.P.A. Kitson, Secretary
6 March 1997
London Life
100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

1) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
2) To discuss the report on London Life's operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
3) To note that Messrs M.R. Bates and G.R. Truswell will retire by rotation on 1 July 1997 and that the UK Board of AMP & London Life, and have indicated to the Principal Board that they are prepared to be reappointed. (See note 5).

4) To note that Mr. C.S.S. Lyon FIA will retire from the UK Board of AMP & London Life at the conclusion of the meeting and that Mr. C.D. Lever FIA will be appointed to the UK Board of AMP & London Life at that time. By order of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and London Life.
S.P.A. Kitson, Secretary
6 March 1997
London Life
100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

1) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
2) To discuss the report on London Life's operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
3) To note that Messrs M.R. Bates and G.R. Truswell will retire by rotation on 1 July 1997 and that the UK Board of AMP & London Life, and have indicated to the Principal Board that they are prepared to be reappointed. (See note 5).

4) To note that Mr. C.S.S. Lyon FIA will retire from the UK Board of AMP & London Life at the conclusion of the meeting and that Mr. C.D. Lever FIA will be appointed to the UK Board of AMP & London Life at that time. By order of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and London Life.
S.P.A. Kitson, Secretary
6 March 1997
London Life
100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Christopher Irvine

Betts off on return journey

TWO years after he left Central Park, Denis Betts is likely to return as a Wigan player next season. Betts, the Great Britain forward, is being released early from a five-year contract at Auckland Warriors for what were described yesterday as family reasons.

Earlier reports that Betts, 27, was homesick and seeking a return to England, prompted inquiries from several clubs, but Wigan claim to have first option on the player, whose departure, along with Phil Clarke, at the end of the 1994-95 season, prompted Wigan's supremacy to recede.

Betts will complete the season in the Australasian Super League. He has held talks with Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, but interest elsewhere is bound to rise in June, when Auckland are in England for world club championship matches.

"I'm committed to playing as well as I can for Auckland for the rest of the season," Betts said. "I'll leave with a heavy heart because, after some trying times, I'm starting to enjoy myself again."

Meanwhile, Lee Hansen, Wigan's new Tongan forward, will make his first appearance, after signing from Widnes, in the Stones Super League tonight. Widnes meet Salford, who are defending a 16-match unbeaten home record.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged ankle ligaments and hopes to be fit in time for Wembley.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged ankle ligaments and hopes to be fit in time for Wembley.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged ankle ligaments and hopes to be fit in time for Wembley.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged ankle ligaments and hopes to be fit in time for Wembley.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged ankle ligaments and hopes to be fit in time for Wembley.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hotel, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley HA9 0DW at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

Johnnie Walker

JOHN WALKER



THE RIGHT GOLFER
... AND WE HAVE
THE RIGHT BEER



PERONI NASTRO AZZURRO: THE GREAT ITALIAN PREMIUM BEER
SPONSOR OF THE 54TH ITALIAN OPEN

CRICKET

Nixon provides reminder of champions' style

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Leicestershire

THERE were many times last year when the majority questioned Leicestershire's ability to win the championship, and the same old doubts have resurfaced on each of the first two days of this new season. However, the mark of champions is to win when playing poorly, and that is what should now happen here.

An hour after lunch yesterday, Leicestershire's prospects were as bleak as the skies over Grace Road. Their last pair were together and they trailed Gloucestershire, a team surely bound for the wrong end of the table, by 39 runs. On a pitch where the odd ball keeps disconcertingly low, this was an unpromising position.

The legacies of winning the title, however, include an unquenchable spirit and, here, it was exemplified by Paul Nixon. For more than two hours, this virtue was restated in a last-wicket stand that adjourned on 99, when bad light drew a merciful veil over Gloucestershire's efforts, and finally totalled 101.

Nixon is a combative player, one of the best batting wicketkeepers around, and few will be surprised by his contribution. For a partner, however, he had the fledgling James Ormond, whose known credentials can be gauged

from the fact that he batted behind Alan Mullally. The order may rapidly be revised, for Ormond showed poise, patience and a serviceable technique while making 35 in his initial first-class innings.

When Leicestershire's total reached the unimaginable riches of 300, it was acclaimed by wild yelling and an impromptu dance routine from the resident cheerleader, Lewis — a red-shirted gentleman who is proving a worthy successor, at least in volume, to the character known as "Foghorn", whose voice ruled this ground in the 1970s.

Until this point, Lewis had been conspicuously quiet, but while he celebrated, Gloucestershire's players stared at each other, hands on hips, as cricketers tend to do when the tenth wicket embarrasses them. This, however, may not be the last fruitless session



Maddy: frustration

Sri Lanka lose spinner

MUTTIH Muralitharan, the only Sri Lanka bowler to have taken more than 100 Test wickets, has been ruled out of the second Test match against Pakistan, which starts in Colombo tomorrow.

Muralitharan has strained a muscle near his rib cage. He has been replaced by Ruwan Kalpage, the off spinner, in a 14-man squad for the final match in a two-game series. Another casualty is Nuwan

Zoysa, the left-arm seam bowler, who has pulled a thigh muscle and has been replaced by Sajeeva de Silva. Arjuna Ranatunga has been retained as captain of Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup tournament in India and the tour to West Indies in June.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the winners of the ICC Trophy, will participate in the Asia Cup, which starts on May 9.

that they endure this summer. The loss of Courtney Walsh — still expected back for a testimonial next year — is a mortal blow to them.

Without him, their bowling has no edge and, although April is hardly the time to condemn, Shaun Young does not look the man to provide it. He did not take a wicket here and looked more support than spearhead. His pace is comparable with that of Mike Smith and, for 28 overs against the last pair, he was not even used. No wonder the county is keen to believe in David Lawrence's comeback.

They have, at least, been competitive in this game, even if it is difficult to see where any weight of runs and wickets will come from over the summer. Alleyne, the new captain, was their best bowler, maintaining a fuller, more effective length than Leicestershire had done on Wednesday and taking his third wicket when he knocked out James Whitaker's middle stump.

Though nothing happened too quickly on this surface, the ball swung and seemed appreciably and only Darren Maddy proceeded without problems. He made 80, in four hours, and the disgust he displayed after toe-ending a slip catch from a ball he need not have played was a measure of his ambition — this he viewed as a lost opportunity rather than a comfortable start to the season.

A poorly-conceived cut from Macmillan had given Hancock a rare wicket and, after lunch, spin gained its first reward when Martyn Ball took two wickets in successive overs. The Gloucestershire batsmen began their limbering up, but they were still going through the motions after the delayed tea interval had come and gone.

When their chance came at last, only two overs were possible before the light closed in again. However, weather permitting, this is a game the champions believe they will win.



Taylor cracks Snape for four through the off side at Hove yesterday on his way to a century for Sussex

Taylor made for second coming

BY SIMON WILDE

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE trouble with some English cricketers is that they never know when they are finished. A year ago, Neil Taylor was apparently in the twilight of his career, his superfluity to a Kent side about to mount a sustained challenge for the championship betrayed by his appointment as second XI captain. He did not play a first-team match all summer.

Sussex, though, remembered Taylor's pedigree when they cast about frantically for recruits during the winter. While Alan Wells went from Hove to Canterbury, Taylor eagerly made the reverse journey, and it may not be such a ludicrously one-sided exchange as some first thought. Yesterday, Taylor scored 127

to help Sussex to keep their noses in front in their match with Northamptonshire.

This was the second time that Taylor, 37, has scored a century on his first-class debut for a county, having done so for Kent against the touring Sri Lankans 18 years ago. The last Sussex man to mark his first appearance with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 538.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he booked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

"If you average 40 in first-class cricket, you just cannot be a bad player of fast bowling," Tony Pigott, the acting chief executive of Sussex, said. "There's nowhere to hide when you do that much batting. Neil is just what we need. He is greedy for runs and will bat all day for us."

Taylor has something of a reputation for slow scoring, but he was no slouch yesterday and moved from 104 to 122 courtesy of four boundaries in one over from Snape, who, like Emburey, found a dry ditch offering frustratingly little turn. Taylor hit 20 fours and a six in a stay of little more than four hours at the crease.

No less significant, perhaps, to Sussex's long-term prosperity was the batting of Keith Newell, who confirmed his promise with a championship-best 91 not out. He arrived at the crease after Akram, having removed Greenfield in his first spell, had returned to

extract Athey. With Sussex on 137 for three, Northamptonshire might have poured through the breach, but Newell stayed firm then and for the next four hours.

It was a frustrating day for Northamptonshire, who found their opponents far less pliant than expected. Only some sharp work in the field kept them in the game: Snape completed a good diving catch in the gully to remove Taylor and Warren a sharp stumping off Emburey to remove Moores, so that, with Drakes making only a brief stay, Sussex were still 12 runs behind with four wickets left. Newell and Jarvis, however, added 41 vital runs in the last 12 overs of the day.

Taylor's was the second excellent debut performance for Sussex in the match. Robinson picked up the one remaining Northamptonshire wicket — Snape for 55, which equalled his championship best — to finish with six for 78.

Law makes haste to confirm his attacking reputation

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 458 runs ahead of Hampshire

ESSEX captains, when they are pressed as to their prospects of winning a championship, tend to speak in football jargon. In Paul Prichard's estimation, to say nothing of that of the bookmakers, they do indeed have a chance. That is not least because they possess batsmen such as Ronnie Irani and Stuart Law who can, as they showed yesterday, score runs with alacrity.

To think that Law, a batsman who made 12 centuries last season, one in which he spent a month in Sri Lanka, is not considered among Australia's best 17 cricketers. However many runs Matthew Hayden thinks he will score this summer, Law is likely to manage even more. Essex, with the exception of Hugh Page a decade ago, have not erred when choosing their overseas players.

Law added 128 in 165 balls with Irani in the afternoon, which in all probability will prove to be the decisive partnership of the match. There was still some help for Hampshire's attack both in the pitch and the atmosphere: the difference now was that their bowlers did not make the same use of it as on Wednesday. And neither batsman let them. Also, Prichard made his second half-century in successive days and Gooch, too, was in some form.

He had twice square cut Stephenson, his old opening partner, to the boundary when in the same over, he shuffled in front of a straight one and was leg-before. Hussain, likewise, did not manage to build a substantial innings, James having him leg-before. It should be said that he was well forward.

After lunch, Law, partnered first by Prichard and then by Irani, inexorably built up a considerable lead. Law arrived in Essex from Australia only the day before this match, but let lagged or not, he struck 12 fours in an innings of 78 off 89 balls.

Tiredness, frustration with having to contend with a fielder on the boundary at point, or, perhaps, the sheer ease with which he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It had been a lovely innings.

Irani's concern after that must have been that he would run out of partners. Robinson went first ball and Darryn Law was nicely taken by Keech at second slip. Hyam also followed but Iltis provided the necessary support. At the close, Irani was five runs short of a century, having struck 14 fours off 163 balls. And most of them were struck pretty hard.

In the morning, Essex had gained a first innings lead of 85 when they removed the last three Hampshire batsmen. Iltis took two wickets and the gangly Cowan had Aymes taken by Hyam, beaten by the bounce. That gave Cowan career best figures of five for 49.

Fully recovered from a toe operation, he is, as the cricket magazines like to say, one to watch. Graham Gooch respects his ability and that is the commendation he needs above all others.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

An unmissable West End theatre offer

The Times Live is a new entertainment service in association with First Call, the leading ticketing agency, which offers readers priority bookings, special offers and discounted tickets on a range of live events. To launch this exciting venture, when you buy two top price tickets for either *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *Martin Guerre* or *Oliver!* The Times will give you two top price tickets for a second show of your choice, from these four, in exchange for five Times tokens which have been published this week.

Tickets are available throughout May and June for: *Miss Saigon* (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Wed matinees 3pm); *Martin Guerre* (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Thurs matinees 3pm); *Cats* (Mon-Thurs 7.45pm & Tues matinees 3pm) and *Oliver!* (Mon-Thurs 7.30pm & Wed matinees 2.30pm). Prices are £32.50 each plus a £2.50 booking fee per ticket.

State which shows you want to see on the form below, make a payment for £70 to cover the cost of two tickets, and post it and your five tokens to: The Times Live, West End Theatre Offer, PO Box 92, London, WC2H 9SU. Applications must arrive no later than Friday, May 2.



See The Times 16-page guide to this summer's entertainment which was free with Monday's paper for more special offers and discounted tickets. If you did not receive your copy please call 0171-481 3355.



Brain before bravado puts DeFreitas in control

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs ahead of Derbyshire

THERE was a time when Phillip DeFreitas would have reacted to the sight of Devon Malcolm and Martin McCague hurling down their thunderbolts by trying to prove that he could bowl as fast as either of them. Not any more.

They still call him "Duffy", but he bowls with more brain than bravado these days and it is just as well for Derbyshire that he does, otherwise Trevor Ward, of Kent, arguably the best uncapped batsman in the country, would have taken this game away from them by now.

Ward could yet do that because he was still going strong on 95 at the close, but at least DeFreitas has given Derbyshire a fighting chance with a high-class exhibition of seam bowling that brought him four wickets, three of them, all leg before, in the space of five balls.

It was in total contrast to what had gone before.

McCague had answered Malcolm's six for 74 by bowling with just as much pace and hostility and, when he took his fourth wicket with his first ball yesterday to reduce Derbyshire to 44 for five, it looked as though it was all going to be down to the speed merchants.

Then Clarke, making a good impression in his first championship innings for his left county, and Cork, showing that, whatever is ailing him, there is nothing wrong with his spirit, applied the brake in a six-wicket partnership of 65.

Both eventually fell to Headley, who bowled some fairly rapid balls of his own, but he could not shake Krikken, the wicketkeeper with the farmer's gait and the town cryer's bellow, who epitomises the commitment of this Derbyshire side.

Strang's leg spin, deployed for the first time in county cricket, was treated with something close to contempt when ever it was pitched short as Krikken clubbed nine fours in 61 before Strang took his revenge by running him out with a direct hit from back-

ward point. By then, however, DeFreitas had helped Krikken to add valuable runs and, when the dedicated Dean and the falling Malcolm put on an improbable 31, the last five wickets had produced 204 runs and trimmed Kent's lead to a mere three.

All eyes then turned to Malcolm again, but sadly the magic of the previous day had left him already. He did strike one blow on Fulton's little finger that forced the opener to retire hurt, but it was not until DeFreitas was introduced that Derbyshire got a wicket.

Long, who had taken 49 minutes to get off the mark, was deceived by his slower ball and caught at cover and then the returning Fulton, Wells and Fleming were all trapped leg before, plumb in front.

Ealham prevented the hat-trick, but he soon fell chasing a wide one from Dean and it was left to Ward, playing in a different league to any other batsman in the match, to make sure that Kent retained the initiative. At the close of play, he had made his 95 off only 109 balls and struck 18 fours.

Boon fights rearguard action alone

BY DEREK HODGSON

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Lancashire

DAVID BOON has given many an Australian innings the solidity of Ayers Rock: now he has to provide Durham with something of the durability of their cathedral, shoring up a batting order that too often seems eroded by the Lambton Worm.

That much, with a valiant, unbeaten 85, he did on a day when all was against his team. Facing Lancashire's enormous total, Durham had to bat under day-long grey cloud that helped the ball swing, in poor light that led to three stoppages, and carrying the

handicap of John Morris's badly-bruised right thumb.

They could not even start on the field at strength, Simon Brown having a strain, while Glen Chapple and Peter Martin had enlarged their last-wicket stand of 134 by another 12 until it reached the highest recorded last-wicket partnership at the ground.

The second delivery with the new ball ended Durham's torment and Durham then had 15 overs of comparative relief, relative happiness. Jonathan Lewis began merrily against the hostile Chapple, cutting him for three fours in one over, and 57 had been raised in 16 overs when one of Ian Austin's niggling seamers trapped Paul Collingwood.

Four runs later, with Chapple switching ends, Lewis's perky defiance was ended

by a shattering yorker that was into the batsman's bootstraps before he could move his feet. Encouraged, Chapple then gave his former teammate, Nick Speak, a ferocious greeting on his return to a ground that had been his home for a decade.

Chapple was genuinely quick at times, looking as though he might again find the form of two years ago, when he and Darren Gough were hailed as the new Statham and Trueman.

Soon after lunch, Morris had his thumb struck by Austin, which left Durham effectively 71 for three. Boon and Speak held on for 17 overs as Lancashire rotated their seamers, Mike Watkinson as a medium, breaking through when Speak, losing patience, was taken at first slip, cutting.

Watkinson also had to retire with a strained arm.

Martin Speight would not have been recognised at Hove, revealing an unexpected obduracy in scoring three in 12 overs, by which time Gary Yates was seeking turn and flight. He dismissed Speight with a looping arm ball; three runs later, Mel Betts was confounded by another yorker from Chapple. Morris returned for one run before tea and then retired again, which left the captain-manager and the tail to battle on.

Boon has so far faced 146 balls and hit 11 fours and a straight six off Yates, otherwise he was mostly cuts and turns. "We've got to learn to time them down," he told his weary troops after the first day. Now he has to show them how to open up.

CHANGING TIMES

Turf experience a cut above others

The Chesterfield goalkeeper, Billy Mercer, may be a popular figure with Cup watchers at the moment, yet his name is mud with the groundsman at Brentford's Griffin Park. As I learnt yesterday, at the unpretentious "Turf Experience II" at Wembley Stadium, goalkeepers have a bad habit of making a mid-point line on the pitch with their boots — or soiling, you might light-heartedly call it (so long as a proud pitch-manager wasn't in ear-shot). "It's an infringement, but they do it anyway," the groundsman sighs, fatalistically.

Anyway, that colossal Mercer scored at Brentford, and despite all his other successes, he will not be forgiven. "What can you do about the mark?" I ask the groundsman, naively. "Fill it in?" "Well," he says, "I'd rather fill him in, to be honest."

A "turf experience" is not

KICKING AND SCREAMING

something I've ever had before. Asked in what profession "spiking," "cutting up" and "bobbling" might be specialist vocabulary, I'd have guessed with confidence hairdressing or peddling drugs. But more than 100 blokes turned up at Wembley yesterday morning to hear talks on such vital subjects as "Rootzone Water Management for Uniform Turf Surfaces", and every single one of them knew more about grass than I'll ever know about anything.

"Do you cut the grass at home, or do you hate it?" I ask Rob McCullagh, the man with the top job at Wembley Stadium. With obvious pleasure, he rubs his hands. "Neither," he says. "I live in a flat."

These are the men who watch vital matches but never raise their gaze from the level of the grass. They yell "Get him off" seemingly out of context. These are men (oh yes) who can tell a divot from a hole in the ground. To them the "rootzone" does not mean the position in which Brighton and Hove Albion now find themselves. From the speaker from the Sports Turf Research Institute paints a futuristic picture of multipurpose sports stadiums, with pitches grown in the car park and rolled up and brought inside only as required. I am as round-eyed as anybody.

They already have a port-



Truss makes the most of a close encounter with Wembley's hallowed turf and finds it in excellent shape

able pitch developed on this principle at Arnhem, apparently — but in my opinion it's a disaster waiting to happen. One day they will roll it up, then count all the players, and discover that several of them are missing, like that old joke about the bugle and the carpet.

We tend to forget how unnatural it is to grow a field in the middle of a football stadium. But it's extremely weird, really, which is why the sight of misplaced grass is probably the most vivid aspect of one's first trips to live football. A friend who loathed *Fever Pitch* (the movie, not the book) nevertheless applauded the scene when young Paul emerges from tunnel and steps, and sees the grass for the first time. What's that doing in here? In the midst of all the mundane concrete, it is like finding a waterfall in a multi-storey car park.

It's very green; it's very flat; it's very large; and, if you're lucky, it's got patterns on it. At Wembley — where the turf has

of course the extra distinction of being hallowed (hello, turf!) — it's generally mown in a criss-cross pattern, although McCullagh, the nice, flat-dwelling groundsman, has a hankering after diamonds as well.

There appear to be no bad

boys of pitch management. I was hoping for tales of cowboys who spray green paint and hope for the best, or patch up goalmouths with offcuts from Allied Carpets. But it doesn't happen.

"What happened to AstroTurf?" is a question that simply betrays my age and falls flat, like reminding people of their Zappata moustaches. On artificial grass, I suspect, a sliding tackle might result in spectacular friction-ignition — a picture once imagined, never forgotten.

"Brave horizontal tackle from Batty," Motson says on the telly. "But ooh look, it's hap-

pened again! His bum's on fire!"

Matrix flow is good: fingered flow is bad. It's amazing what you can pick up about effective watering techniques in a mere half-day, although one cannot forget that the Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute has reached volume 72, so presumably there's a lot more to it than that. Meanwhile, it is worth knowing that, while a "Creeping Bent" may sound like one of Sherlock

Holmes's less successful disguises, it is in fact a species of grass. On the Wembley pitch, there's a combination of rye grasses which look in excellent nick to me. But, then, I always applaud well-cut grass, having grown up in a household in which my father *not* cutting the grass was a domestic non-cooperation issue of disproportionate significance.

"Do you ever water the

grass just to watch the players fall over?" I ask the Brentford man. Tiredness is setting in, perhaps. I'm clutching at — well, grass. But it's nice to think of these guys having a bit of fun sometimes. Why else would the chap at Sunderland have mown the pitch at Roker Park in concentric circles for the Middlesbrough match? Either he wanted the visitors to suffer vertigo, or it was pure *joie de vivre* for the sake of the cameras, a little like writing "Hello Mum" with his lawnmower.

"So this profession — would you call it a level playing field?" I kept wanting to ask, but somehow could never get up the nerve. But I know one thing: I'll always take the worst-case-eye-view of the football pitch in future. And when a goalkeeper is beaten by a random bounce caused by his own infringement, I shall make like an aggrieved groundsman and say "Serves you right."

LYNNE TRUSS

'It's nice to think of these guys having fun'

BOXING

Hamed's taunts go unheard

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

EVERYBODY knows that Billy Hardy has no chance against Naseem Hamed when they meet for the World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation world featherweight championships in Manchester a week tomorrow. Nobody, though, except for Hamed, the defending champion, has told Hardy that. After all, you have to respect a veteran of 32

returning to the ring after his dramatic defeat by Orlando Canizales six years ago and lifting the British, Commonwealth and European titles.

So, it was no surprise to see a confident Hardy tying the last knots to the package that he has been preparing for Hamed in the Burton Street School gym in Sheffield, just four miles away from Wincobank, where Hamed wrapped up his routine.

Gordon Ibinson, Hardy's



Hamed: impromptu visit

trainer, who has been with him since he was six, said: "He is ready to go. We have been training for eight weeks and he is confident he will be the winner on the night."

For the past eight weeks Ibinson and Hardy have been rehearsing secret moves that they have devised after studying Hamed on video tape. "We

have been sparring with a Naz clone," Ibinson said, but he refused to reveal who that man might be.

It is just as well that nothing secret was in progress yesterday, for Hamed was in impromptu visit to the gym. "I ain't spying on you," Hamed said, "but show me what you've got. I am not impressed. You will have to hit harder than that."

Hardy's training quickly petered out, but he said that he was about to finish anyway. If Hamed's visit was a stunt to upset Hardy, it failed.

Back at Wincobank, Hamed was, as usual, keener to hand out an earbashing than bagbashing. "From what I saw, I've got nothing to worry about," he said. "He has nothing to beat me with. It will be the first or the second [round] — depends on how I feel on the night."

Weekend Watchdog

BBC1, 7.00pm

The latest of several offspring of the consumer show is a Friday edition devoted, appropriately, to the leisure field. Some of the areas, such as package holidays, have been well covered on the parent programme. But the agenda also includes complaints against high street shops, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, garden centres, amusement parks and sports venues. All of which should provide plenty of material for the tested and kitemarked team of Anne Robinson and the man whose first name looks like a misprint, Johnathan Maitland. There is more emphasis than before on live phone lines and the forthright Robinson will be challenging errant companies to mend their ways within a 30-minute deadline. *Weekend Watchdog* is also making what could be a rash promise, to use its own plane to fly home holidaymakers who are having a rotten time.

A Golfer's Travels With Peter Alliss

BBC2, 8.00pm

Alliss's amiable golfing chat show comes from Spain, this year of the Ryder Cup and synonymous with Seve Ballesteros. Sadly there is no Ballesteros in the film. Instead Alliss talks to Jaime Ortiz-Patino, owner of the Valderrama course where the Ryder Cup will be played, and plays a couple of holes on the "Augusta of Europe". From there it is off to Rio Tinto, a gravel course (you bring your own mallet) which is not the Augusta of anywhere but is of interest as the first place where golf was played in Spain. It was imported by Scottish miners. Non-golfers who have read so far and feel the programme is not for them may be pleased to know that Alliss's other guest is Steven Redgrave. This is the cue for yet another inquest on Britain's awful showing (Redgrave and partner excepted) in the Olympics.

Garden Party

Channel 4, 8.00pm

When *Garden Party* was first aired last year it tended only to make existing gardening programmes look all the more slick and professional. The idea of assembling a trio of experts to visit gardens and dispense advice,



Anne Robinson investigates (BBC1, 7.00)

seemed sound enough, not least because for half a century it has been the basis of *Gardeners' Question Time* on radio. But despite having the advantage that it could show what it was talking about, the programme flowed far less well than Radio 4's perennial. While the new series is not available for previewing, it is a fair bet that lessons have been learnt. Check for yourself as Tom Barber, once again in the anchor role, takes fellow horticulturalists David Jones and Carol Klein to the spring gardens of Docton Mill in Devon.

Gardeners' World

BBC2, 8.30pm

Meanwhile, over at the BBC's gardening show, Bob Flowerdew is in trouble. It all stems from his infamous item last year about growing potatoes in towers of old car tyres. Viewers seem either to have dismissed the idea with scorn or to have tried it and found it wanting. Flowerdew does his best to look unabashed. He suggests where unsuccessful growers may have gone wrong and demonstrates his continued faith in the theory by planting even more varieties in even more towers. You cannot imagine Helen Yemm using old car tyres. Yemm was the slightly schoolmarmish host of *Gardening From Scratch*. Having told other gardeners what to do, she now shows us her garden. Meanwhile, Alan Titchmarsh dispenses cheery wisdom on growing fruit in a small space and keeping cats off lawns. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Front

Radio 4, 8.50pm

A man walking down the high street at Lewes in Sussex is dressed as a zebra. He attracts little attention and is certainly not regarded as odd. The reason is that it is November 5, when Lewes has a carnival. On any other day of the year, the man would attract curious glances and cause discomfort among the townsfolk. The essence of this new series is the relationship between people and pretence: how we tend to assume certain protective positions for certain situations, at school, at work and at home. Pretence runs deep, it goes back to the apes and is to be seen in the behaviour of wounded animals, which will take elaborate measures to give the impression they are not wounded. Sara Parker explores the phenomenon.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00pm Nicky Carroll 4.00 Gooch 6.15 News 6.30 Pale Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 London Music Week One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Chris Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sam Kennedy 8.05 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night Music 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel Show 3.00 The John Peel Show 4.00 The John Peel Show 5.00 The John Peel Show 6.00 The John Peel Show 7.00 The John Peel Show 8.00 The John Peel Show 9.00 The John Peel Show 10.00 The John Peel Show 11.00 The John Peel Show 12.00 The John Peel Show 1.00 The John Peel Show 2.00 The John Peel

Dishing the dirt on a harmless obsession

Taghi Amirani is a filmmaker with a very odd line in questioning. "How long have you been in love?" he asked brightly, a few minutes into last night's *Mad about Machine* (Channel 4). It was a curious question to ask for three reasons. The first being that he hadn't known David and Barbara long; the second, that Barbara had just dropped a major clue by explaining that she met David at Bolton's Palais de Dance 26 years ago. And the third? The programme was supposed to be about vacuum cleaners.

Still, the Cassons had not got to run Accrington's premier vacuum repair business without knowing a thing or two. "Well, we've been married for 26 years," replied Barbara, fixing Amirani with a look that would make an extension lead recoil at five paces. David, however, hoping perhaps that what chimneys did for Fred

Dibnah, vacuum cleaners would do for him, played along: "For two weeks... 26 years ago."

This time it was his turn to be on the receiving end of that look — it works for husbands, too. He was back in that messy repair shop in two shakes of the Shake 'N' Vac.

For those who have stuck with this gently enjoyable series, Amirani's method of film-making has long been apparent. He is far more interested in the people than he is in the machines.

It's a laudable failing, but at times he seems to be trying far too hard to turn his subjects into eccentrics. His questioning goes way beyond the normal line of promptings from behind the camera.

If he is going to so control the content of his film by asking extraordinary questions such as "What will happen to Vac Services after you have gone?", he needs to be in front of the camera alongside his

subject. That way we can get the measure of both of them.

And what is it about death, anyway? He's obsessed with it. You might think the discovery that after the passing of Vac Services, "people will have to buy new" would be enough for any filmmaker. But not for Amirani. "Does that make you sad?"

Cur? More on? Not a bit. "Is there no way you can make Vac Services live on after you?" David paused, sighed and thought of Dibnah. "No," he said solemnly. "I'd like it to die with me." At last, our man was happy.

With that we were off to Newlyn, heart of the Cornish fishing industry. Must be another party political broadcast, I thought — you can't move for politicians and battle blunders in Newlyn at the moment.

"Hello, I'm Sophie Grigson," said a woman who looked on the

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

cusp between the Greens and the Lib Dems. "Aven't made up my mind yet, slinging 'em," said a burly fisherman. Actually, that last bit's not true. "Come and have a look at my salt cod," he said. As Grigson had just gushing told us that "salt cod is no longer a necessity, it's a luxury," she did as she was bid. Part two of *Taste of the Times* (Channel 4) was underway. What followed was the fascinat-

ing story of surely one of the most pointless ingredients known to modern, refrigerator-friendly man. First take your cod (did you know the best cod is gutted alive? — quite put me off tonight's fish supper) then cover it in salt, which draws the water out of it and preserves it. Then hang it on a hook while you hibernate for the winter.

When you awake and fancy a bit of fish, soak the salt cod in fresh water, which washes away the salt and puts back the water. Result, something that looked remarkably like readily available fresh cod. Grigson, however, was at pains to stress that the whole thing was not a monumental waste of time: "It's not like fresh cod at all."

The difference, she thought, was akin to that between plums and prunes, a comparison which, for somebody who's never seen the point of dried fruit either, was not entirely helpful. She fairly gallops

through the recipes, too. If you were to slow down a bit, Sophie, I might vote for you.

A week or so ago, *The Times* carried a striking picture of the soon-to-be-renamed *Sea Empress* nearing the end of a £22 million refit in Belfast. The picture served as a powerful reminder that what had been a disaster for the Pembrokeshire coast had actually been very good news for the ship-repairers of Harland and Wolff.

Last night's *Horizon* (BBC2) studied the picture further still by arguing — as its title *A Perfect Oil Spill* suggested — that the grounding of the *Sea Empress* barely counted as a disaster at all.

Lessons had been learnt from all the major oil disasters, we were told. From the *Torrey Canyon* we learnt that you cannot burn off crude oil by bombing with napalm. Nor is scraping off the top layer of a beach, as the French did

after the *Amoco Cadiz*, a good idea (it gets rid of the oil all right, but it destroys the eco-system of the beach). Nor is using equally damaging pressure hoses, as they did in Alaska after the *Exxon Valdez*.

Those gallant Pembrokeshire men with their little shovels and scrapers were doing exactly the right thing, following the latest, softly-softly approach that aims to work with nature rather than against her.

Softly-softly, however, does not mean low-tech nor a happy ending for everybody. Thousands of gallons of dispersants were used, hydrocarbon-munching bacteria were helped along by chemical fertilisers.

And then, following a mass, and very messy, post mortem, a growing consensus emerged: that the best thing to do with oiled seabirds was not to clean them but put them out of their misery. Didn't sound perfect to me.

6.00am Business Breakfast (10421)
6.00am BBC Breakfast News (70379564)
9.05 Election Call The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, answers viewers' questions (T) (9078835)

10.00 Style Challenge (70019)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51306)
11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4265699)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9791090)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly introduces early coverage from day seven; the second round matches, at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (3960274)

12.35pm Good Living (9315767)
1.00 News (T) and weather (14946)
1.30 Regional News (T) (5094561)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (73184867)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage as round two continues. Coverage continues on BBC2 (1410699)
3.30 Mouse and Mole (9325458) 3.35 Noddy (T) (6786038) 3.45 Dodger and Badger (T) (6766274) 4.00 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (T) (6355653) 4.25 Clarsa Explains It All (T) (8799292) 4.50 Newsround Election Special (T) (1224748) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8780877)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (151125)
6.00 News (T) and weather (6182)
6.30 Regional News (T) (959800)
6.55 PEB by the SNP (795571)

7.00 Weekend Watchdog A look at Britain's leisure industry (T) (1816)
7.30 Top of the Pops Roundup of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (T) (496)

8.00 Pontifex Fitch gives his new call-mates a lesson in welcoming reception. With Ronnie Barker, Maurice Denham and Richard Beckinsale (T) (7) (9944)

8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman puts the questions to team captains Ally McCollet and John Parrott and their guests England cricket captain Mike Atherton, Three-Day-Eventer Karen Dixon, Leicester fly-half Joel Starkey and snooker's European Open champion John Higgins (T) (9999)

9.00 News (T) and weather (370922)
9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (781729)

10.00 Terminator II: Judgment Day (1991) With Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Edward Furlong. The cyborg returns this time setting out to protect the future saviour of the human race from a rival terminator with incredible powers. This version features scenes from the director's cut, previously unreleased in Britain. Directed by James Cameron (T) (2522338)

12.20 Young Bill Young (1969) with Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickinson, Robert Walker, Jr and David Carmine. A young and impressionable gun man is helped through a series of worst-case scenarios by a mysterious stranger intent on avenging the brutal murder of his son. Directed by Burt Kennedy (5937510)

1.45pm-1.50 Weather (8527538)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. For more information on the Video PlusCodes for the programme you wish to record, VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1
6.00pm Morning Glory (101019) 6.00 Regan and Katie Lee (74922) 6.00 Another World (23090) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (52854) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (92323) 1.00pm Games (1152) 2.00 The Daily Show (1952) 3.00 Jerry Jones (12468) 4.00 Oprah with the Stars (24253) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (93000) 6.00 Real TV (4517) 6.30 Mervyn (T) (91568) (9303) 7.00 The Simpsons (9303) 7.30 M*A*S*H (1197) 8.00 JAG (44545) 8.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (9303) 10.00 High Incident (67405) 11.00 Seinfeld (23222) 11.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (93019) 12.00am L.A.P.D. (67397) 1.00am The Bill (66565)

SKY 2
6.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (133459) 8.00 Melrose Place (134760) 9.00 Pacific Drive (1355670) 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (93055) 11.00 Late Show (980851) 12.00 Hi Hi (933504)

SKY NEWS
Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES
7.00pm Getting Even with Dad (1994) (60511) 8.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.30 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1996) (67717) 12.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00 The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 3.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 4.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 5.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 6.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 7.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 8.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 9.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 10.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 11.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 12.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 1.00am The Bill (1978) (1149477) 2.00



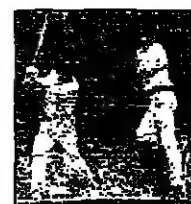
RACING 44-45
Connery spies
glory chance
at Punchestown

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

CRICKET 48-49

Reports from
every first
class match



Juventus back changes to final stages

Uefa consider new format for European Cup

BY JOHN GOODBODY

JUVENTUS, backed by several leading clubs, including Manchester United, have proposed a week-long climax to the European Cup with the semi-finals and the final all played in the same country.

The plan put forward by the Italian club, who are the holders and meet Borussia Dortmund, of Germany, in the final in Munich on May 28, has been given unofficial approval by Uefa, European football's governing body. The proposal is to abandon the present format of two-legged semi-finals and a final some weeks later in favour of a week-long tournament of knockout matches. This would also allow Uefa to change the qualifying European Champions' League from six groups of four clubs to a more natural four groups of six.

Referring to the plan of Roberto Bettiga, the Juventus managing director, Fritz Ahlström, a Uefa spokesman, said: "All the other quarter-finalists reacted very positively and so did Uefa. That means we will discuss it, but it would not be possible before the 1998-99 season."

The main motivation to recast the competition is money. Although attendances in the final stages would be smaller than the present system of home-and-away ties, television companies and sponsors would be excited by the idea of a concentrated climax to the tournament. Uefa has already raised more than £400 million from the first five years of the Champions' League and plans to match that figure in the next three.

The gross revenue from the competition this year is more than £100 million, even more than Euro 96, although, of course, there are far more games in the annual European Champions' League for clubs than in the quadrennial European championship for countries. With 38 television companies and eight leading sponsors each paying a minimum of £2 million up to Ford's estimated £10 million, the income from the tournament

is growing all the time. Jürgen Lenz, the director of TEAM Marketing AG, which markets the Champions' League for Uefa, said that the tournament will remain predominantly a free product for television viewers well beyond 2000. In England, ITV has the rights until 2000.

Lenz said: "This is a competition with such massive appeal that we have to deliver it to the widest possible audience. I believe that, until maybe 2010, there is absolutely no question that the tournament will remain on free TV."



"There will be changes and some will come from within" — Alex Ferguson on the aftermath of Manchester United's European Cup exit
Oliver Holt, page 46

Next season, 56 teams will be competing in the European Cup. They will consist of the 48 champions from Uefa's member countries and the eight runners-up from Uefa's eight leading countries, which include England. The preliminary round will be played over two legs, on July 23 and July 30, and the FA Carling Premiership champions and runners-up are exempt, although Rangers will be expected to enter at this stage.

The eight runners-up will join in for the next round, on August 13 and 27. After this, clubs qualify for the 24-strong Champions' League, for which

the champions of the eight seeded countries get automatic entry.

Lenz said that there were two reasons for the changes. "In the first place, there is the view that every champion is entitled to have a chance to qualify for the Uefa Champions' League. The fact that a club such as Rosenborg BK [of Norway] reached the quarter-finals supports this idea," he said.

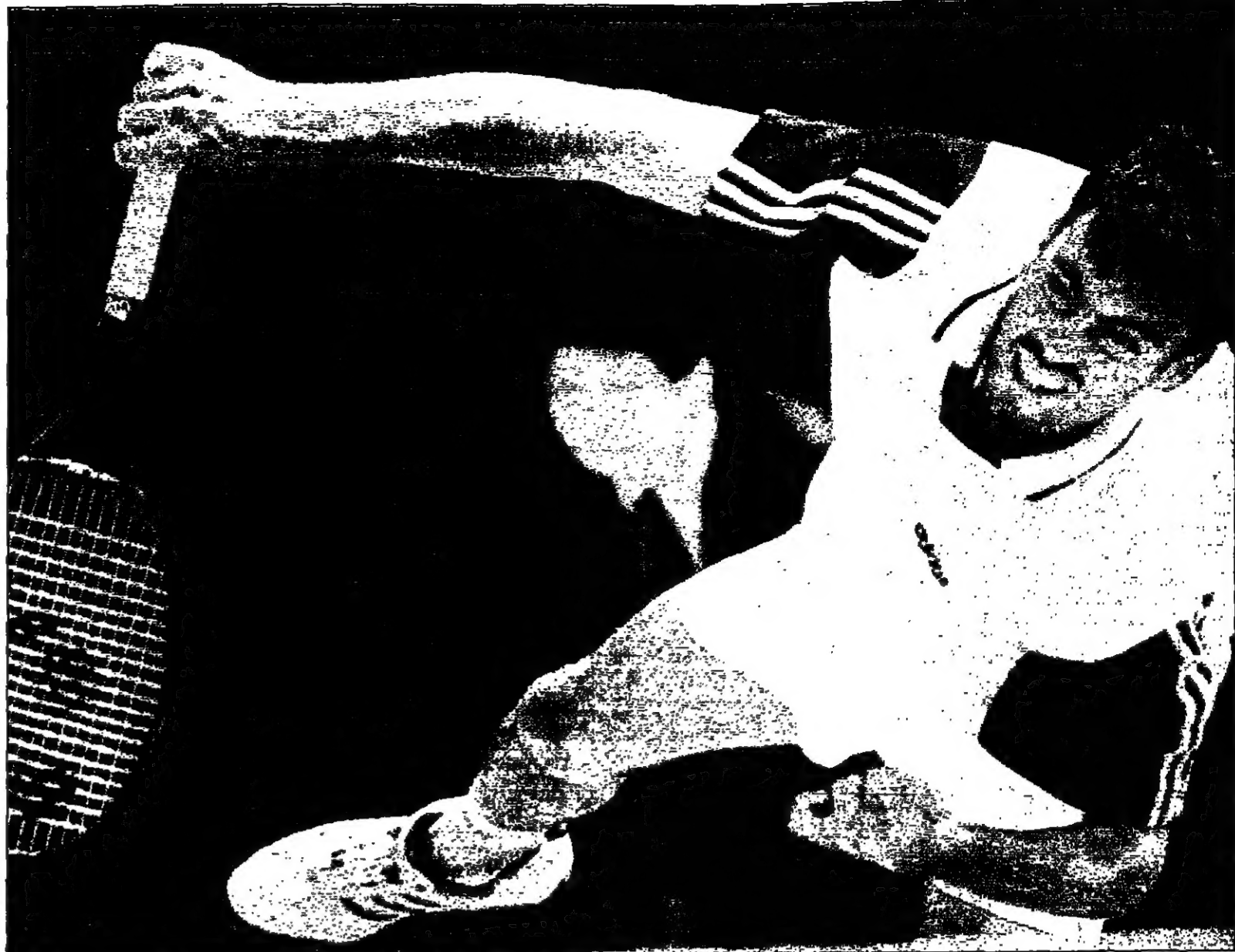
"There must always be a space for an outsider, because that is one of the charms of top football. That is how the world discovered teams such as Cameroon and Nigeria."

"However, the second point is that a high level of quality must be maintained. There must be a sort of guarantee that the Uefa Champions' League must present the best that European club football has to offer. The new qualifying system is designed to ensure that this is the case."

Uefa, meanwhile, is adamant that it will not allow future winners of the English League Cup automatic entry into the Uefa Cup until the Premiership complies with its request to reduce its membership to 18. Leicester City, as Coca-Cola League Cup-winners this season, will be the last club to have the privilege of entry.

□ Roberto Baggio, the AC Milan international, is a surprise inclusion in the Italy squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Poland in Naples on Wednesday. His call-up may have been prompted by concern from Cesare Maldini, the national coach, over the fitness of Gianfranco Zola, the Chelsea striker, who has a hamstring injury.

Baggio, 30, whose international career looked to have come to an end under Arrigo Sacchi, the former Italy manager, has ironically found favour again at a time when he has struggled to get into the Milan side — now managed by Sacchi. Baggio has won 45 caps, but last played for Italy in their 1-0 win over Slovenia in September 1995.



Bruguera serves during his third-round defeat by Santoro in Monte Carlo yesterday. The Spaniard offered little resistance in the final set

Santoro claims another notable scalp

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FABRICE SANTORO, of France, added another big-name player to his collection yesterday, when he eliminated Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the third round of the Monte Carlo Open.

Santoro, the world No 90, knocked out Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, in the second round and has now beaten two of the leading clay-court tennis players in the world in three days. Both are former French Open champions and, between them, they have won five Monte Carlo Open titles.

"I had not won many matches before coming here, so these two victories are very important to me," Santoro, 24, said. "I rank them among the three or four best wins in my career."

The secret of Santoro's success yesterday, as it had been against Muster on Tuesday,

was his variation of stroke and change of style away from a baseline-dominated game.

"This year, I realised that I could not go on like that if I wanted to make a career in tennis," Santoro said. "I was a ball fiddler. My game belonged to the Seventies more than the Nineties."

"I have tried to be more aggressive the last few months because my game is not that powerful," Santoro said. "I have tried to come to the net more, rather than win points from the back."

He also tested Bruguera with slices and charged the net frequently. "The last few tournaments I have won a lot of points racing into the net, so I am beginning to feel altogether more comfortable there," Santoro added.

After losing the first set, the Frenchman raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and, although Bruguera broke back and levelled the scores,

Santoro regained the initiative by breaking Bruguera's service again to take the set 7-5.

Santoro started the deciding set as he had the second, by taking a 3-0 lead. Bruguera seemed unable to raise his game, Santoro winning 12 points in succession and hitting three aces in the seventh game to close out the match.

In a tournament that has thrown up a string of surprise results, ten of the top 16 players have failed to get past the second round including Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Muster, who were all eliminated in one afternoon.

Magnus Larsson, who beat Sampras, reached the fourth round yesterday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, and now meets Marcelo Rios, of Chile, who overcame Alberto Costa, the losing finalist last year, 7-6, 6-4.

Rios, seeded seventh, was gaining revenge for his semi-

final defeat by Costa 12 months ago. In a match that produced some of the finest rallies of the week, Rios was able to raise his game when he needed it, winning the first-set tie-break 7-3 and making a vital break in the ninth game of the second set.

The Chilean clearly relishes the surface and is approaching his peak at the right time for the French Open next month. "I was born on clay," Rios said. "I love to play on clay but, when you play as well as I did today, the surface doesn't matter." Rios has had a lacklustre season so far, reaching only one ATP Tour final.

Other winners yesterday included Christian Ruud, of Norway, who beat Emilio Alvarez, the Spanish qualifier, 4-7, 7-6, 6-1, and Carlos Costa, another Spanish qualifier, who mastered Arnaud Boetsch, of France, 6-4, 7-5. Yet another Spaniard, Alex

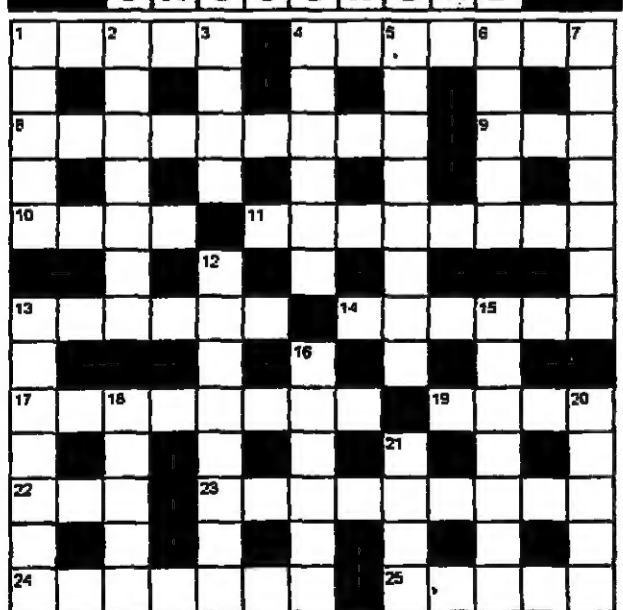
Correia, progressed with a 4-6, 7-6, 6-0 victory over Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, the winner of the Estoril tournament two weeks ago.

Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion from Holland, made short work of Mark Philippoussis, the talented young Australian, winning 6-3, 6-2.

In the LTA satellite tournament in Bournemouth yesterday, Julie Pullin, of Sussex, the national champion, made smooth progress into the last four with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Claire Taylor, the second seed from Oxfordshire. Pullin now faces Nathalie Tijssen, of Holland, for a place in the final.

Elsewhere on the women's scene, Martina Hingis, the world No 1, is reportedly making a good recovery after an operation to repair ligaments in her left knee, which she injured in a fall while horse-riding on Monday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1077

ACROSS

- 1 Engender (5)
- 4 1950s hippie (7)
- 8 (Can't do something) at all (3,6)
- 9 Like Marvell's mistress (3)
- 10 Tracked road vehicle (4)
- 11 Showing remorse (8)
- 12 Blurred (eyes) (6)
- 14 Talk boringly, at length: exactly (4,3)
- 17 Agra mausoleum (3,5)
- 19 Insincerely fluent (4)
- 22 Falstaff's Prince (3)
- 23 Abandoning (all other, BCP) (9)
- 24 Use of plural for (5,2)
- 25 One prejudiced (5)

DOWN

- 1 Be suitable for (5)
- 2 Relevant (7)
- 3 You (arch.) (4)
- 4 Shock-absorber: old fool (slang) (6)
- 5 One from New World (8)
- 6 Recess (for statue) (5)
- 7 A noble gas, Superman planet (7)
- 12 Appalling (8)
- 13 Meat seller (7)
- 15 Irritating: making sore (7)
- 16 Peter Pan author (6)
- 18 Wobbly sweet (5)
- 20 Coastal indentation (5)
- 21 Smeared (painted) roughly (4)

The solution to 1076 will be published Wednesday, April 30

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY (11-12 US LBS). TIMES CROSSWORDS: Book 1, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 2, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 3, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 4, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 5, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 6, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 7, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 8, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 9, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 10, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 11, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 12, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 13, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 14, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 15, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 16, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 17, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 18, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 19, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 20, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 21, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 22, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 23, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 24, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 25, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 26, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 27, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 28, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 29, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 30, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 31, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 32, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 33, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 34, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 35, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 36, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 37, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 38, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 39, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 40, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 41, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 42, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 43, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 44, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 45, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 46, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 47, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 48, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 49, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 50, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 51, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 52, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 53, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 54, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 55, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 56, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 57, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 58, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 59, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 60, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 61, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 62, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 63, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 64, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 65, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 66, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 67, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 68, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 69, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 70, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 71, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 72, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 73, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 74, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 75, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 76, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 77, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 78, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 79, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 80, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 81, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 82, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 83, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 84, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 85, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 86, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 87, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 88, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 89, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 90, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 91, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 92, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 93, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 94, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 95, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 96, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 97, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 98, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 99, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 100, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 101, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 102, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 103, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 104, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 105, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 106, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 107, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 108, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 109, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 110, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 111, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 112, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 113, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 114, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 115, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 116, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 117, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 118, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 119, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 120, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 121, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 122, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 123, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 124, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 125, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 126, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 127, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 128, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 129, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 130, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 131, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 132, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 133, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 134, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 135, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 136, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 137, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 138, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 139, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 140, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 141, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 142, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 143, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 144, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 145, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 146, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 147, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 148, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 149, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 150, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 151, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 152, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 153, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 154, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 155, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 156, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 157, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 158, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 159, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 160, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 161, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 162, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 163, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 164, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 165, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 166, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 167, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 168, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 169, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 170, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 171, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 172, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 173, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 174, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 175, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 176, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 177, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 178, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 179, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 180, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 181, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 182, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 183, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 184, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 185, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 186, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 187, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 188, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 189, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 190, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 191, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 192, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 193, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 194, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 195, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 196, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 197, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 198, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 199, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 200, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 201, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 202, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 203, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 204, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 205, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 206, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 207, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 208, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 209, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 210, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 211, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 212, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 213, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 214, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 215, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 216, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 217, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 218, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 219, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 220, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 221, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 222, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 223, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 224, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 225, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 226, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 227, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 228, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 229, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 230, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 231, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 232, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 233, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 234, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 235, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 236, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 237, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 238, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 239, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 240, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 241, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 242, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 243, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 244, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 245, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 246, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 247, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 248, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 249, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 250, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 251, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 252, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 253, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 254, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 255, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 256, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 257, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 258, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 259, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 260, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 261, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 262, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 263, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 264, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 265, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 266, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 267, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 268, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 269, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 270, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 271, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 272, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 273, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 274, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 275, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 276, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 277, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 278, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 279, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 280, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 281, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 282, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 283, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 284, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 285, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 286, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 287, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 288, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 289, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 290, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 291, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 292, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 293, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 294, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 295, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 296, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 297, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 298, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 299, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 300, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 301, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 302, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 303, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 304, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 305, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 306, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 307, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 308, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 309, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 310, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 311, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 312, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 313, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 314, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 315, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 316, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 317, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 318, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 319, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 320, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 321, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 322, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 323, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 324, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 325, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 326, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 327, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 328, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 329, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 330, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 331, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 332, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 333, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 334, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 335, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 336, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 337, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 338, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 339, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 340, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 341, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 342, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 343, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 344, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 345, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 346, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 347, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 348, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 349, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 350, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 351, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 352, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 353, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book 354, £12.50 (US \$20.00). Book